



**The Astronauts Memorial Foundation**  
**The Center for Space Education**  
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**“The Astronauts Memorial Foundation honors and memorializes those astronauts who have sacrificed their lives for the nation and the space program by sponsoring the National Space Mirror Memorial and by implementing innovative educational technology programs.”**

**MISSION:**

**EXCELLENCE**

SPRING 2009

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation is a private 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.



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**NASA Pauses to Remember Fallen Astronauts**

On Thursday, January 29, NASA held its annual *Day of Remembrance* ceremony at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. On the last Thursday of each January, NASA dedicates the day to reflecting on the anniversaries of the 1967 Apollo I launch pad fire, the 1986 Challenger explosion, the 2003 Columbia accident and the lives of the crews of those missions as well as all the members of the NASA family who lost their lives in the exploration of space.



Left to right: Janet Petro, Deputy Director, KSC; Robert Cabana, Director, KSC; and, Mark Nappi, Vice President, Launch and Recovery Systems and Florida Site Director, United Space Alliance, place a wreath at the base of the National Space Mirror Memorial on January 29, NASA's *Day of Remembrance*.

As a part of the ceremony, a wreath was laid at the base of the AMF's National Space Mirror Memorial by Kennedy Space Center (KSC) director **Robert Cabana**, a former astronaut who commanded two shuttle missions and piloted two others. Cabana was accompanied by **Janet Petro**, deputy director of KSC, and **Mark Nappi**, vice president of Launch and Recovery Systems and Florida site executive for United Space Alliance.

During the ceremony, Cabana reminded everyone that “spaceflight represents one of the most difficult endeavors that we as a people can undertake. Just as the rewards are great, so too are the challenges we must overcome to safely reach, operate in, and live in space. We will not always know what lies ahead of us; as we explore we learn more about the wonders of our planet, but also how unforgiving space can be.”

**Foundation Welcomes New Directors**

The AMF is very pleased to announce its new directors, who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization.

**Outgoing Directors**

The Foundation would also like to take this opportunity to thank departing board directors **Richard Truly** and **William Potter** for their dedication. We appreciate Colonel Truly's three years of service to the AMF. Finally, we salute Mr. Potter for his seven years of service including two years as Chairman of the Board. His significant contributions have made a lasting impact on the Foundation and its mission.

*Foundation Welcomes New Directors continued on Page 3*

*NASA Pauses to Remember Fallen Astronauts continued on Page 2*

## President's Perspective

Stephen Feldman, Ph.D.



**B**ob Cabana, the center director at Kennedy Space Center and a former astronaut and shuttle commander, laid a wreath at the Space Mirror Memorial on January 29 as was described in detail in the lead article of this newsletter. Mr. Cabana was joined by Janet Petro, deputy director of the Center and

a former helicopter pilot as well as having served as a captain in the U.S. Army's aviation branch. They were also accompanied by Mark Nappi, vice president of Launch and Recovery Systems and Florida site executive, United Space Alliance. This ceremony vividly reminded us of the mission of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation to honor and memorialize those astronauts who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the space program.

In order to successfully fulfill our mission as a private not-for-profit foundation without government funding we need to raise enough money every year to meet all of our necessary expenses. During each of the past ten years we have been able to carry out our mission while generating an annual cash surplus each year. We are debt free, we own the Space Mirror Memorial and the Center for Space Education without a mortgage, and even after the recent market downturn we have in excess of three million dollars in cash and marketable

securities. This was made possible by generous donations, the purchase of Challenger-Columbia license plates by millions of people, school districts utilizing our educational programs, and educational institutions partnering with the AMF at the Center for Space Education.

As we look forward toward fiscal year 2010 we are faced with financial challenges that we must overcome while remaining true to the memorial and educational aspects of our mission. People have suffered personal financial losses in the stock market, in their 401 Ks and in the workplace and, consequently, are less able to financially support worthy activities. The AMF's own endowment has declined and our educational partners are hurting financially. Finally, school districts and teachers need but cannot afford the AMF's educational programs.

It is in this environment that the AMF must continue to fulfill our obligation to the astronauts whom we honor and their families. We cannot and will not allow any diminution in the quality of our programs or in our commitment to excellence. We will find ways to reduce costs and will seek new sources of revenues. Our board of directors is comprised of former astronauts, former senior NASA managers, community leaders and corporate executives. They will join with us during this difficult time in our nation's economy to ensure that the AMF continues to thrive and to fulfill the expectations that have been placed upon us by so many of our stakeholders. 

*Stephen Feldman*

*NASA Pauses to Remember Fallen Astronauts continued from Front Cover*

Cabana continued, "Today is a good day to reflect on how . . . we must challenge our assumptions, recognize our risks, and address each difficulty directly and openly so that we can operate more safely and more successfully than we did yesterday, or last month, or last year. We must always strive to be better, and to do better."

In closing, Cabana stated, "We each have opportunities – every day – to remember through our actions, the courageous men and women who dedicated their lives to public service. With each mission and every challenge, we build upon their technical achievements, benefit from their discoveries, and tap into their bravery and spirit. I am honored to remember these members of the NASA family, and work side by side with those in NASA and in our communities, to fulfill the vision of these extraordinary people, of living and working in space." 

## Message from the Chairman

**A** part of our mission at the AMF, we "honor and memorialize those astronauts who have sacrificed their lives for the nation and the space program." The Foundation is entrusted with the safeguarding and upkeep of the official national monument dedicated to remembering our nation's fallen astronauts – the Space Mirror Memorial.

The mirror, located at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center, reflects the sky and the surroundings of KSC, where the honored astronauts served. Etched through the polished granite are the names of the 24 astronauts who have died during a mission or while in training for a mission. Their names are illuminated 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The Space Mirror Memorial is truly a remarkable and unique tribute to the men and women who gave their lives for the pursuit of space exploration and its inherent betterment for all of mankind.

Adjacent to the Mirror is the Biographical Wall. Here, the photographs and the biographies for each of the 24 astronauts are laser-engraved on a granite wall. Visitors to the Memorial are offered a deeper sense of each astronaut as a person and the true significance of the astronauts' desires to be citizens of our universe.

The Memorial to our astronauts was a gift to our nation from nearly one-half million Florida residents.

Almost 100 percent of the Memorial was funded through the purchase of a license plate commemorating the Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy. NASA provided a site on six acres at KSC, and the AMF ensured the completion of the Mirror. Over 800,000 visitors came last year to the Space Mirror Memorial to pause and reflect on the extraordinary men and women who were inspired by and dedicated their lives to learning more about life beyond our planet Earth.

The Memorial also offers consolation and hope to the families and friends of the honored astronauts – consolation that these cherished lives are not forgotten and hopes that the passion for the interest in space exploration remains alive for generations to come. At the Foundation, we are unconditionally committed to our deeply-rooted mission. We will also continue to honor these astronauts with innovative technology programs which serve as a living memorial. 

*Alan J. Doshier*

Alan J. Doshier



## The AMF Honors Trustee Ukleja

**D**r. and Mrs. Mick Ukleja and Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Feldman are shown with a collage of flown patches signed by astronauts with whom Ukleja has served with on the AMF's Board of Directors. The collage was presented to Ukleja, a former AMF director, officer and current chair of the board of trustees, in appreciation of his work in helping the AMF to secure a \$500,000 gift to support its educational programs and activities. 



**Left to right: Mick Ukleja, Louise Ukleja, Connie Feldman and Stephen Feldman**

## Foundation Welcomes New Directors



**Laura Shepard Churchley**, the daughter of Alan B. Shepard, the first American in space, is the Chair of the Astronauts Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees at the Kennedy Space Center. Previously, Churchley was a six-year board member of the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center Foundation. She is also an honorary consultant to the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium and is a life-time member of the Society of Sponsors for the United States Navy. Churchley makes presentations to middle-school students and encourages their interest in math, science and engineering. The AMF's annual *Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award* is named in honor of her father.



**Kevin C. Hoshtrasser**, site director for Florida Operations and Florida Space Shuttle Operations at the Kennedy Space Center for Boeing's Space Exploration division, coordinates the activities of the Orbiter Vehicle Engineering, Integration and Logistics Directorates, and strategic planning and management of the Boeing Space Shuttle support teams. Prior, Hoshtrasser served as the Boeing Launch Site chief engineer and director of Engineering and as director of Safety & Mission Assurance. He joined The Boeing Company in 1983. Hoshtrasser serves on the University of Central Florida's Engineering Executive Council and is the recipient of the National Management Association's Gold Knight of Leadership award.



**Daniel R. Pearson** is group president of Harris' Government Communications Systems Division, which develops and produces advanced communications and information systems for the Department of Defense and other government agencies. Most recently, Pearson was group president of Harris' Defense Communications and Electronics business unit. Prior to that, he was president of the company's Department of Defense Programs. Before being named president of Network Support Division in 2000, he served as vice president and general manager of Strategic Management and Business Development. He is a member of the Air Force Association, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, the National Defense Industrial Association, the Security Affairs Support Association and the Association of the United States Army.

Foundation Welcomes New Directors continued on Page 4



**Robert C. Springer (Colonel, USMC, Ret.)** graduated from Annapolis in 1964 and upon receiving his aviator wings in 1966 he flew F-4 aircrafts, "Bird Dogs" and "Huey" helicopters completing 550 combat missions. In 1975 as a graduate of the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School, he was a test pilot for more than 20 different types of fixed- and rotary-winged aircraft. While serving in the U.S. Marine Corp, Springer received numerous awards and recognition for superior and distinguished service. Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in 1980, Springer was a mission specialist on the crew of the STS-29 and served as a mission specialist on STS-38. He logged over 237 hours in space. Subsequent to his retirement from the USMC and NASA, Springer was an executive with The Boeing Company until his retirement in 2007. He is currently the President of Vector Consulting.



**Dave Weldon, M.D., F.A.C.P.** is an Army veteran and physician who served the State of Florida's 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District for 14 years. In this capacity, Weldon served on the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Subcommittee, which has funding oversight of NASA. He also served on the Labor, Health, and Human Services as well as the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees. Weldon was a member of the Autism, Cancer and Military Veterans Caucuses. He also served on the House Science Committee, House Banking Committee, Government Reform Committee and was a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce during the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress. Under his leadership in the House, Weldon served as vice chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics for eight years. He is the co-founder and chairman of the Congressional Aerospace Caucus. Since completing his terms, Weldon has returned to private practice and continues to see patients at the VA Outpatient Clinic in Melbourne, Florida on a volunteer basis. 

