

# NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

**NAME:** Joseph Guy Thibodaux, Jr.

**ORAL HISTORY:** 20 October 1999

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

BS in Chemical Engineering, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 1942

**MILITARY EXPERIENCE:** Officer, United States Army (1943-1946)

**PRE-NASA CAREER:**

Officer, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Burma, Pacific Theater of Operations (1943-1946)

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory/Langley Research Center, Langley Field, Virginia

Propulsion Engineer, Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (PARAD) (1946-1949)

Head, Model Propulsion Section, PARAD (1949-1955)

Head, High Temperature Materials Section (1955-1958)

**NASA CAREER:**

NASA Langley Research Center, Langley Field, Virginia

Chief, High Temperature Materials Branch (1958-1964)

Consultant to Space Task Group (STG) Director (1958-1964)

Chief, Propulsion and Power Division, NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas (1964-1980)

**POST-NASA CAREER:** Aerospace Consultant

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Retired

**PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:**

- Associate Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Chairman, Houston Section AIAA
- Member, AIAA Technical Committee on Solid Rockets
- Member, NASA Research Advisory Committee on Chemical Propulsion
- Member, Interagency Chemical Rocket Propulsion Group

**AWARDS & CITATIONS:**

- NASA Exceptional Service Medal (twice in 1969)

- AIAA James H. Wyld Propulsion Award (1970)

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS:**

(see Thibodaux, "Bibliography" and "Publications" for a complete listing)

Purser, Paul E., Joseph G. Thibodaux, and Jackson H. Herbert. "Note on Some Observed Effects of Rocket Motor Operation on the Base Pressures of Bodies in Free Flight." NACA RM-L50118. 16 November 1950.

Smith, R. D., and J. G. Thibodaux, Jr. "Propulsion for the Scout Vehicle." Presented at the American Rocket Society 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, 5-8 December 1960.

Thibodaux, Joseph G., Jr. "Apollo Spacecraft Propulsion Systems." Presented to the Society of Automotive Engineers, National Aeronautic and Space Engineering and Manufacturing Meeting, Los Angeles, California, 6-10 October 1969.

Thibodaux, Joseph G., Jr. "Experience with Spherical Solid Propellant Rockets." Presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Rocket and Astronautics, Tokyo, Japan, 24-28 May 1960.

Thibodaux, Joseph G., Jr. "Flight Experience with Apollo Spacecraft Propulsion." Presented at the Society of Automotive Engineering National Aerospace Engineering and Manufacturing Meeting, Los Angeles, California, 16-18 October 1973.

Thibodaux, Joseph G., Jr., Robert L. Swain, and George Wright. "Analytical and Experimental Studies of Spherical Solid-Propellant Rocket Motors." NACA RM L57012. 16 August 1957.

**PATENTS:**

Lewis, D. J. and J. G. Thibodaux, Jr. "Mandrel for Shaping Solid Propellant Rocket Fuel Into a Motor Casing." US Patent 3,193,883. 13 July 1965.

Styles, C. M., R. L. Swain, and J. G. Thibodaux, Jr. "Spherical Solid-Propellant Rocket Motor." US Patent 3,001,363. 26 September 1961.

Thibodaux, J. G., Jr., "Method of Making a Solid Propellant Rocket Motor." US Patent 3,570,364. 16 March 1971.

Thibodaux, Joseph G., Jr. "Solid Propellant Rocket Motor and Method of Making Same." US Patent 4,000,682. 4 January 1977.

**BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

“Bibliography - Joseph G. Thibodaux, Jr.,” Joseph G. Thibodaux Biographical File, Key Personnel (Inactive) Files, Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“MSC Personality - Joseph Guy Thibodaux Heads Propulsion and Power Division,” Space News Roundup (5 August 1964): 6.

NASA Biographical Data Sheets (1964 and date unknown), Joseph G. Thibodaux Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (date unknown), Joseph G. Thibodaux Biographical File, Public Affairs Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (May 1971 and date unknown), Joseph G. Thibodaux Biographical File, Key Personnel (Inactive) Files, Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Publications - Joseph G. Thibodaux, Jr.,” Joseph G. Thibodaux Biographical File, Key Personnel (Inactive) Files, Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

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