

Fall parade

The annual Child Care Center Fall Carnival Costume Parade snaked through JSC on Oct. 28, bringing an adorable assortment of superheroes, princesses, witches and goblins to the center. JSC team members lined up outside their buildings to pass out goodies to the trick-or-treaters.



Photography: Crystal Schroeder

Space Center Roundup

The Roundup is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published by the Public Affairs Office for all Space Center employees. The Roundup office is in Bldg. 2, Rm. 166A. The mail code is AP121. Visit our Web site at: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/roundup/online/> For distribution questions or to suggest a story idea, please call 281/244-6397 or send an e-mail to roundup@ems.jsc.nasa.gov.

Joanne Hale Editor
Kendra Phipps Assistant Editor
Catherine Borsché and Brad Thomas Staff Writers
Marshall Mellard Graphic Designer

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEBSTER, TX
Permit No. 39

Roundup



SPACE CENTER ROUNDUP • Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Volume 44 • Number 12



Copyright NASA. by Pat Rawlings/SAC

Out-of-this-world food

Space food scientists at Johnson Space Center project that fruit and vegetable crops grown during future missions to the moon and Mars will be cultivated in hydroponic growth chambers similar to this conceptual image. Hydroponic growth chambers enable scientists to grow plants in a water-based system that delivers food and water to the roots of the plants while eliminating the need for soil.

December
2005
Houston, Texas

From the Center Director

A MESSAGE FROM CENTER DIRECTOR MICHAEL L. COATS



Family matters

It seems appropriate, especially at this time of year, that my first Roundup column be about one of my top priorities, and that is families. The nature of our space business is such that we attract talented, dedicated and hard-working people. They take a great deal of pride in the jobs they do, and they do them well. There are times we all have to work long hours, sometimes for extended periods of time, and frequent travel away from home is part of the job. But it's imperative that families come first.

I've learned over the years that taking good care of the family at home makes you much more productive at work. And while there are times when we all put in the extra time and effort when we should, there is enough flexibility built into the rules to allow everyone to invest the necessary time in our family life.

I certainly enjoyed my shuttle missions, but my fondest memories are of coaching my daughter's soccer and softball teams, my son's Little League and Pony League teams, and attending their high school baseball games and marching band performances. I even miss sitting in hard bleacher seats.

After more than 37 years in the aviation and space business, I know I'll never have to tell someone they aren't working hard enough, but many times I've had to tell folks late at night to go home to the family. I encourage everyone to stop for a few minutes and think about their priorities. And remember that you are part of your family, too, and taking care of yourself is critical. You owe it to yourself and your family to make the effort to be around for a long while.

I know I don't have to explain the benefits of proper diet and exercise, and I haven't always been the best example, but your health has to be your first priority. Personal time is also important. Part of a healthy lifestyle is to find the time on a regular basis to do what you enjoy doing. The pace of life is becoming more frantic all the time. If you don't believe me, just try driving at the speed limit sometime. Make sure you slow down occasionally and enjoy the riches and beauty of the wonderful world around us.

Lastly, I'd like to point out that you are part of the "Space Family" as well. It doesn't matter to me whether you're a government or contractor employee; we are all part of a team that needs to function as smoothly as possible in order to accomplish the missions of operating the shuttle and station safely while at the same time transitioning to a new space transportation system. Good communications are mandatory, and treating each other with respect, consideration and patience will not only help us achieve our mission objectives but continue to make the Johnson Space Center the best place in or out of this world to work. I am realizing one of my dreams, which is to work for all of you here at JSC, and I'm looking forward to a busy and productive year in 2006. Please enjoy the holiday season, and spend some time with your proudest achievements – your families.

Michael L. Coats

NASA names former astronaut new Johnson Space Center director



NASA 586-33163

Coats is a retired Navy captain who graduated from the Naval Academy in 1968. He flew 315 combat missions in southeast Asia from 1970-1972 as an A-7E pilot aboard the USS Kittyhawk. He later served as a test pilot and flight instructor at the Naval Test Pilot School.

Selected as an astronaut candidate in January 1978, Coats became a NASA astronaut in August 1979. A veteran of three spaceflights, Coats has logged over 463 hours in space.

Michael L. Coats has been named director of Johnson Space Center. Coats is a former astronaut, and recently served as vice president of Lockheed Martin Astronautics in Denver. He is the ninth person to serve as director in the center's 44-year history.

"Mike Coats brings a perfect blend of experience to his new role as the head of the nation's primary center for human spaceflight development and operations," said NASA Administrator Michael Griffin. "As a former pilot and astronaut, and a long-time aerospace industry executive, he knows what our next generation of manned spacecraft must be able to do, and he knows what it takes to produce them. I'm delighted to welcome Mike back home to NASA."

Coats joined NASA in 1978 as a member of the first astronaut class specifically selected to fly the space shuttle. He flew three shuttle missions, the first as pilot for the maiden flight of *Discovery* in 1984. He commanded two subsequent shuttle missions, logging a total of more than 463 hours in space.



NASA 578-35297

Before joining NASA he was a distinguished U.S. Navy aviator. He logged more than 5,000 hours of flight time in 28 different types of aircraft. He retired from NASA and the Navy in August 1991.

"I look forward to returning to JSC, and I am honored by the trust Mike Griffin has shown in me," Coats said. "We will embrace the challenge of the new Constellation program that will take us first to the moon, and then on to Mars. At the same time, the contributions of the space shuttle and International Space Station will be critical steps in that journey, and we remain committed to their success."

Coats replaces Jefferson D. Howell Jr., who is on assignment as a visiting professor to the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.