



Your vision is our future

Concept: Brad Thomas Illustration: David M. Russell

Space Center Roundup

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

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Astronaut Steve Robison, STS-114 mission specialist, anchored to a foot restraint on the International Space Station's Canadarm2, participates in the mission's third spacewalk.

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THE YEAR IN
review

FROM THE director

A MESSAGE FROM CENTER DIRECTOR MICHAEL L. COATS



Thank you!

Over the last few weeks I've been learning a lot about the various ways so many of you are putting time, effort and money into local activities, and I wanted to express my appreciation to all of you who volunteer and actively support our Houston area communities. Communities are not made of buildings and roads and trees. Communities are built by people, families and children.

My first example of "space volunteers" came many years ago when I was recruited to coach Little League and Pony League baseball teams here in the local area. I was more anxious than during a countdown sitting on the launch pad. I had played football and basketball but couldn't hit either a curveball or a fastball, so teaching baseball was intimidating. I had to attend clinics and read a lot of books to learn how to teach the correct fundamentals. Fortunately, we had several young NASA engineers who not only had played baseball but were superb at working with and relating to the youngsters. Without children of their own, they gave up a considerable amount of their personal time to help coach the teams and taught me a tremendous amount as well, both about baseball and generosity. I was impressed with their selflessness and eagerness to help and teach others.

We all want our families to enjoy the many advantages of living in our 21st century society, but we must remember that we have those advantages because the generations before us worked hard to improve their lives and the lives of others. I've read stories about how we all spend too much time in front of the TV or computer screen nowadays, and we don't spend as much time as we used to with personal interaction and getting to know our neighbors. While video games are highly popular and there may be a kernel of truth in those stories, I frankly haven't seen that much of a problem. People need people and that's not going to change, even with better video games and HDTV. My experience over the last 25 or 30 years is that, when help is needed in the community, there is no shortage of volunteers.

I was delighted with the number of volunteers to help support Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's Toys for Kids event. This is an annual event sponsored by the congresswoman that benefits more than 3,000 disadvantaged children in the Houston area.

I am proud to know that the spirit of generosity I encountered many years ago still exists here. The space workforce is talented and highly educated, and the vast majority has and will continue to put their gifts to work in ways to benefit the community. Once again, thank you.

Mike

2005

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR success

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

- Space shuttle
- International Space Station
- Advanced Human Support Technology
- Biomedical Research and Countermeasures
- Space Medicine
- Space Operations/Communications Management
- Extravehicular Activity
- Curatorial Care and Study of Lunar/Planetary Materials
- Astronaut selection and training
- Constellation Program

MAJOR FACILITIES

- Consolidated Mission Control Center (Shuttle and Station)
- Shuttle and station simulators and trainers
- White Sands Test Facility (located in New Mexico)
- Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory
- Shuttle Engineering Simulator
- Biomedical Operations Laboratories
- Space Environment Simulation Laboratory
- Vibration Acoustic Test Facility
- Anechoic Chamber Facility
- Lunar Sample Facility
- Sonny Carter Training Facility/Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory
- Human Research Facility (under development)

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT JSC

In January 1964, 2,100 employees were readying for the move on site at JSC (known at that time as Manned Spacecraft Center) with the remaining 600 personnel to be on site by July.

Today there are 3,172 civil service employees, the majority of whom are professional engineers and scientists. Of these, approximately 92 are active astronauts. Many companies provide contractor personnel to JSC. More than 12,000 contractors work on site or in nearby office buildings and other facilities.

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CIVIL SERVICE WORKFORCE IN FISCAL YEAR 2004

Communities	Total Number of Employees	Estimated Income* of Employees
		(Dollars in Millions)
Webster	91	8.0
League City	484	44.8
Seabrook/El Lago/Taylor Lake	273	27.4
Kemah/Bacliff	44	4.1
Nassau Bay	22	2.3
Clear Lake City	938	96.3
Friendswood	371	38.7
Dickinson	61	5.1
Alvin	42	3.8
Pearland	144	13.9
LaPorte/Shoreacres/Baytown	48	3.9
Pasadena/Deer Park	59	4.6
Other Houston Area	394	33.8
Other Galveston County**	63	5.7
TOTAL	3,034	292.4

* Information based on W-2 data provided by the JSC Financial Management Division. Income is defined as gross income less FICA, Health Insurance Tax (HIT) for Medicare, and Permanent Change of Station HIT related taxes and expenses. In addition to the current employees, there are JSC retirees living in the local area, but their economic impact is not reflected above.

** Includes LaMarque, Santa Fe, San Leon, Texas City and the city of Galveston.

statistics