

Sixteen JSC employees earn award; see breathtaking STS-106 launch



Sixteen Space Flight Awareness launch honorees from JSC were recognized at Kennedy Space Center where they viewed the launch of *Atlantis* on space shuttle mission STS-106.



Seated, from left: Judy Willhoite, Adele Leighton, Liz Kalla and Jessie Hendrick. Second row, from left: Eric Darcy, William Powers, Greg Blackburn, Jay Hoover, Keith Brown and Ray Torrez. Third row, from left: Kathy Rauch, Fred Ouellette, Frank Alanis, Clifford Madrid, John Graf and Cecilia de la Garza.

The STS-106 honorees included: Frank Alanis, Greg Blackburn, Eric Darcy, John Graf and Judy Willhoite, Engineering Directorate; Keith Brown, Information Systems Directorate; Cecilia de la Garza, Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Office; Jessie Hendrick, Equal Opportunity Programs Office; Jay Hoover, Center Operations Directorate; Liz Kalla and Kathy Rauch, International Space Station Program Office; Adele Leighton, Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Clifford Madrid, White Sands Test Facility; Fred Ouellette, Space Shuttle Program Office; William Powers, Mission Operations Directorate; and Roy Torrez, Flight Crew Operations Directorate.



Alanis was cited for his outstanding contributions and expertise in resolving the shuttle's wiring damage issues and his leadership and tenacity in adapting the Russian Docking System for the Orbiter and International Space Station interface.

Blackburn was recognized for leadership and dedication as project manager for the Space Integrated Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System Project, otherwise known as SIGI. The SIGI will be used to support three programs and will increase performance while maximizing savings to the government.

Brown was cited for his project leadership, engineering and software design skills, all critical in the design and development of software tools that continuously extend the margin of safety for the space shuttle vehicles as well as NASA's fleet of aircraft.

Darcy has led a number of battery projects in support of several NASA programs. These include the adaptation of commercial batteries for flight applications, resulting in consistency, commonality, effective use of manpower and reduced costs.

De la Garza consistently demonstrates outstanding administrative skills, professionalism and attention to detail that support the SR&QA organization in assuring accomplishment of its mission and the safety of each space flight mission.

Graf was cited for the technical leadership and expertise he has displayed in the development, fabrication and certification of the back-up oxygen candle system for the International Space Station Program.

Hendrick was recognized for her continued dedication to the JSC Disabilities Program by her many contributions to the various committees to accommodate the disabled, both internal and external to JSC, and for her involvement in recruiting summer interns with disabilities.

Hoover was cited for the outstanding support he has provided to NASA's space programs, specifically his effective management of the rehabilitation project for the Mission Control Center power and control system, a \$5.7-million-dollar project.

Kalla led the Stowage Working Group in the development of innovative and comprehensive solutions to the stowage issues on the International Space Station, which required extensive negotiations with the Russians as well as numerous groups within JSC and the contractor community.

Vehicle Engineering Office, all of which will greatly improve the overall safety of the shuttle fleet.

Powers was recognized for his sustained outstanding performance, technical competence and personal dedication in support of nearly 50 space shuttle flights as a certified flight controller.

Rauch was honored for her significant contributions to the successful integration of Russian hardware into the International Space Station Program by creating and documenting a new process for developing, qualifying, certifying and shipping Russian flight hardware labels.

Torrez was cited for his outstanding achievements and dedication to duty by demonstrating critical quality assurance accomplishments in support of aircraft corrosion programs and the T-38N ejection seat replacement program.

Willhoite was honored for her significant personal contributions and outstanding support in managing administrative functions for the Crew and Thermal Systems Division in the role of supporting the space shuttle, International

Space Station and advanced programs.

The recipients received a VIP tour of KSC and were guests of honor at a reception where astronauts and members of NASA and contractor management applauded their work and dedication to the space program.

Astronaut Greg H. Johnson presented each honoree with a framed certificate and a lapel pin at JSC's awards breakfast held during the event.

The Space Flight Awareness Launch Honoree Award is the highest tribute paid to government and industry workers to recognize their work on flight systems and other critical mission support tasks that contribute to astronaut safety and mission success. ■

For more information concerning the SFA Program, contact Barbara Zelon at x38782.



The crew of STS-106, clockwise from the top, Richard Mastracchio, Boris Morukov, Edward Lu, Scott Altman, Terrence Wilcutt, Yuri Malenchenko, and Daniel Burbank

Leighton was cited for her support of the Engineering Directorate's engineering technical base budget and her performance as the Lockheed Martin Science & Engineering analysis and test contract business manager.

Madrid has managed many construction-related projects and office budgets and has effectively transitioned into managing technical service functions such as the White Sands Test Facility calibration and cleaning facilities.

Ouellette was cited for his outstanding leadership and technical contributions in managing several Orbiter upgrade projects and numerous flight production projects for the Space Shuttle