

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Thomas Joseph Kelly

ORAL HISTORY: 19 September 2000

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS in Mechanical Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1951
MS in Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University, New York, New York, 1956
Graduate Study at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Graduate Study at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York
MS in Industrial Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1970

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: 1st Lieutenant, US Air Force (retired)

PRE-NASA INVOLVEMENT:

Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, Bethpage, New York
Summer Student Employee (1947-1951)
Propulsion Engineer, *Rigel* Missile Program (1951-1953)
Group Leader, F-11F *Tiger* Program (1953-1956)
United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio
Performance Engineer, B-58 *Hustler*, F-105 *Thunderchief*, and *Hound Dog* missile (1956-1958)
Lockheed Corporation
Group Leader, Rocket Propulsion Development Engineering (1958)
Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, Bethpage, New York
Assistant Chief, Propulsion (1959-1960)

NASA INVOLVEMENT:

Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, Bethpage, New York
Engineering Project Leader, Apollo & Lunar Module Studies and Proposals (1960-1962)
Project Engineer, Engineering Manager and Deputy Program Manager, Lunar Module Program (1962-1970)
Deputy Director, Space Shuttle Program (1970-1972)
Director, Space Programs (1972-1976)
Member, NASA Advisory Panel on Space Vehicles

POST-NASA INVOLVEMENT:

Grumman Corporation, Bethpage, New York
Vice President, Engineering (1976-1981)
Vice President, Technical Operations (1981-1986)

Vice President, IRM, Data Systems Division (1986-1991)
President, Space Station Integration Division (1991-1992)
Member, Research & Technology Advisory Council
Member, Aeronautics & Space Engineering Board, National Research Council
Ad Hoc Committee on Technology, Large Space Systems
Committee on Use of the International Space Station for Engineering Research and
Technology Development, Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems
Committee on International Space Station Meteoroid/Debris Risk Management,
Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems
Chair, Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board, National Research Council
Committee on Engineering Challenges to the Long-Term Operation of the
International Space Station, Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Astronautical Society (AAS)
- Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Member, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- Member, National Academy of Engineering (NAE)
- Member, Tau Beta Pi (Honorary Engineering Society)
- Member, Pi Tau Sigma (Honorary Mechanical Engineering Fraternity)
- Member, Quill & Dagger (College Senior Honor Society)
- Member, National Audubon Society
- Member, Boy Scouts of America

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- NASA Certificate of Appreciation, 1969
- Cornell Engineering Award, 1972
- NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, 1973
- Honorary Doctor of Science, State University of New York, Farmingdale, 1983

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Kelly, Thomas J. "Technical Development Status of the Project Apollo Lunar Excursion Module." Lunar Flight Programs, Advances in the Astronautical Sciences. Vol. 18. 1964.

Kelly, Thomas J. "NASA/Grumman Apollo Lunar Module." Presented at the AIAA Engineering Conference and Show, History Remembered, 16 February 1989.

Kelly, Thomas J. "Manned Lunar Lander Design - The Project Apollo Lunar Module (LM)." AIAA 92-1480, Presented at the AIAA Space Programs and Technologies Conference, 24-27 March 1992.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

American Men & Women of Science, 1998-99, 20th Edition, s.v., “Kelly, Thomas Joseph.”

Apollo Spacecraft: Lunar Module News Reference, “Background Section,” (Bethpage, NY: Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation. Public Affairs, Space, 1968), B-4.

Erik Holm and Christine Sampson, “‘Father’ of Module Dies, Thomas J. Kelly led team that created lunar device,” NewsDay.com Homepage, Online, <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-likell0325.story> (Article Dated 25 March 2002; Accessed 25 March 2002).

Who’s Who in Engineering, 9th Edition, s.v., “Kelly, Thomas J.”

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