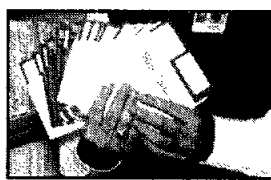


Hubble visitors

NASA recently selected three veteran astronauts, completing the crew to revisit the Hubble Space Telescope. Story on Page 4.



Disk beats paper

The Personnel Management Information System joins the computer age as more than 10 years of data is put on disks. Story on Page 4.

Space News Roundup

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No. 47

Galileo speeds by Earth

In not much more than the blink of an eye, the Galileo spacecraft whizzed by Earth a second time Tuesday morning for a last look at home before speeding on toward Jupiter.

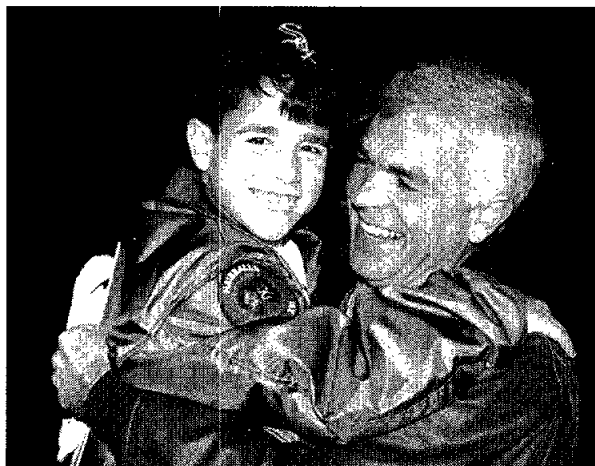
Galileo passed within 165 nautical miles of the South Atlantic Ocean at about 9:09 a.m. Central. Eight minutes later as it flew over Argentina, Galileo passed within 6,140 n.m. of *Discovery* at an altitude of 1,191 n.m. The orbiter was at an altitude of 175 n.m. at the time.

Galileo has been looping through the solar system since it was launched from the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* in October 1989. It first flew past Venus in February 1990, then Earth in December 1990 and the asteroid Gaspra in October 1991.

Each time Galileo passed a celestial body, it used the gravity of the planet or asteroid, to increase its speed. This, the third gravity-assist, added about 8,300 miles per hour to the spacecraft's speed in its solar orbit and changed its direction slightly so its elliptical orbit now will reach to the orbit of Jupiter, about 480 million miles from the sun.

The first orbiter and atmospheric probe for any of the outer planets, Galileo is expected to arrive at Jupiter in December 1995. It will be the first spacecraft to make direct measurements from an instrumented probe within Jupiter's atmosphere and the first to conduct long-term observations of the planet and its magnetosphere and satellites from orbit around Jupiter.

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Above: *Discovery's* drag chute fluttered to the ground in the soft California breezes as the orbiter rolled to a stop on Edward's Runway 22. Throughout the eight-day mission, *Discovery* performed without major system anomaly. Left: Crew members were greeted by family and friends when they returned to Ellington Field Wednesday night. Mission Specialist Michael "Rich" Clifford received a welcoming hug from his son Brandon.

JSC Photo by Bob Walck.

Discovery ends 15th mission in California

By Kari Fluegel

STS-53 came to a close Wednesday, but not until weather in Florida caused a last minute change of plans for *Discovery* and its five-member crew.

The orbiter glided to a stop on the concrete at Edwards Air Force Base at 2:45 p.m. Central. It was diverted landing at the Kennedy Space Center due to cloud cover moving onto the Florida coast.

Crew egress was delayed about two hours while technicians secured a reaction control system jet leak, but after astronauts departed the orbiter, *Discovery's* crew headed home to Houston.

"It was a good mission," said STS-53 Commander Dave Walker during crew return ceremonies at Ellington Field. "I know for sure that we did something to contribute to the security of the country. I think we did something to advance the cause of science a little bit, and I know for real sure that we had a good time."

Walker also expressed his thanks to the teams, both on the ground and in the air, that contributed to the mission. Those sentiments were echoed by other crew members.

"The space shuttle is just one fantastic vehicle," said Pilot Bob Cabana. "We had a fantastic mission and it

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JSC reaches 100 percent of '92 CFC goal

Donating a total of \$440,138, JSC employees boosted this year's Combined Federal Campaign grand total to 100 percent of the center's 1992 goal.

According to the final tally, 11 organizations gave more than 100 percent of their 1992 goals. The offices that topped their goals by the most were the Equal Opportunity Programs Office with \$2,492 or 290 percent of its goal; the Office of the Director with \$4351 or 181 percent of its goal; and the Human Resources

Office with \$9,949 or 168 percent of its goal.

Employees contributed about \$27,00 more than they did in 1991, including 398 employees who gave one hour pay per month, 85 who gave two hours pay per month and 109 who gave over \$600.

The Engineering Directorate contributed the largest dollar amount with the \$110,895 or 107 percent of its goal. The Mission Operations Directorate gave the next largest amount totaling \$85,912 or 118 per-

cent of its goal.

The final figures also show that 2,626 civil service employees participated. The Office of the Director, the Equal Opportunity Program Office and the Legal Office reported 100 percent or more participation.

JSC employees at the White Sands Test Facility contributed \$4,311 to the Sun Country CFC and had 81 percent participation.

Winners of the three pairs of airline tickets which were provided by Continental Airlines were Anne

Modisette of the Information Systems Service Management Division, Anita Jenkerson of the Space Shuttle Program's Management Integration Office and Lucy Yates of the Administration Directorate's Engineering Procurement Branch.

The CFC officially closed Nov. 10, but contributions have continued to come in, said CFC Coordinator Teresa Sullivan. Anyone still wishing to make donations should contact the JSC Exchange Operations Office at x39168.

Gibson, Shriver named lead astronauts

By Barbara Schwartz

Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson and Loren J. Shriver recently were appointed chief and deputy chief, respectively, of JSC's Astronaut Office.

David C. Leestma named the two replacements for himself and former chief Dan Brandenstein less than a week after his own appointment to direct Flight Crew Operations.

"Many people are not aware of how complex the management functions of the Astronaut Office are," Leestma said. "The highly visible part of our jobs—mission assignments—seem to be the major part of the job. Actually, that

is only part of what astronauts do. Between flight assignments astronauts rotate through technical jobs that interface with every other organization on site and often with NASA Headquarters and other centers."

In addition to mission support assignments such as CAPCOM and launch and landing site duty, astronauts' technical assignments include assisting with flight rule development, following vehicle processing, tracking issues, working in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory, providing science support, addressing safety issues, assessing hardware performance and development, tracking payload

development and integration, and monitoring crew equipment requirements.

Each astronaut participates in an active public appearances program and responds to news media interview requests.

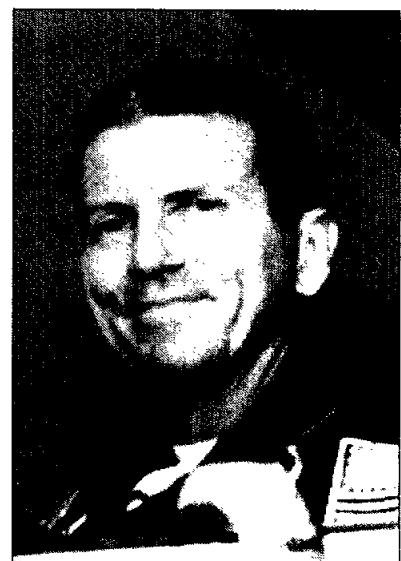
Tracking essentially everything related to human space flight is what the chief and deputy chief jobs entail. They also make crew assignment recommendations for shuttle missions, oversee payload specialist activities and manage the paperwork required.

"Filling these positions was my top priority," Leestma said. "I chose Hoot and Loren because of their

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Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson



Loren J. Shriver

Garn's 'passionate support' served space program

Editor's Note: In special ceremonies Thursday, JSC dedicated the Jake Garn Simulator and Training Facility. Jeff Bingham, who served as Garn's administrative assistant from 1974 to 1990, provides a look at the man known in Congress for his support of NASA and who became known as simply "Jake Garn, PS-2."

By Jeff Bingham

On Sept. 9, near the end of the Senate debate on the bill containing NASA fiscal year 1993 appropriations, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., chair of the VA-HUD-Independent Agency Subcommittee responsible for the bill, introduced a surprise amendment.

"This amendment renames the space shuttle simulator training facility at the Johnson

Space Center after our distinguished ranking member, the senior senator from Utah," she said.

"The senior senator from Utah was not aware that I would take this action. He is not the kind of guy that wants a lot of fuss made over him. But I think we should make some fuss over him, because he has been an exemplary member of the U.S. Senate ... best known for his passionate support for the space program ..."

Mikulski's tribute to Jake was the first of many to follow over the next several weeks as the Senate wound up its business. A common thread running through those comments was Jake's unyielding commitment and support to the nation's space program.

Jake Garn has always been an avid sup-

porter of the space program; a logical outgrowth of his life-long interest in aviation. His father, who was a World War I pilot, was the first director of aeronautics for the state of Utah, and Jake got his pilot's license on the morning of his 16th birthday, even before he got his driver's license. He has logged more than 10,000 hours of pilot time, in civilian and military aircraft, and is currently restoring a 1948 Navion single engine low-wing aircraft.

Among the committees Jake was first appointed to as a freshman senator in 1975 was the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences. It was then, in early 1975, that he first came to JSC and, in fact, first visited Bldg. 5, where he practiced docking the Apollo module simulator with the Soyuz, as Tom Stafford showed him the train-

ing procedures being used to prepare for that historic mission.

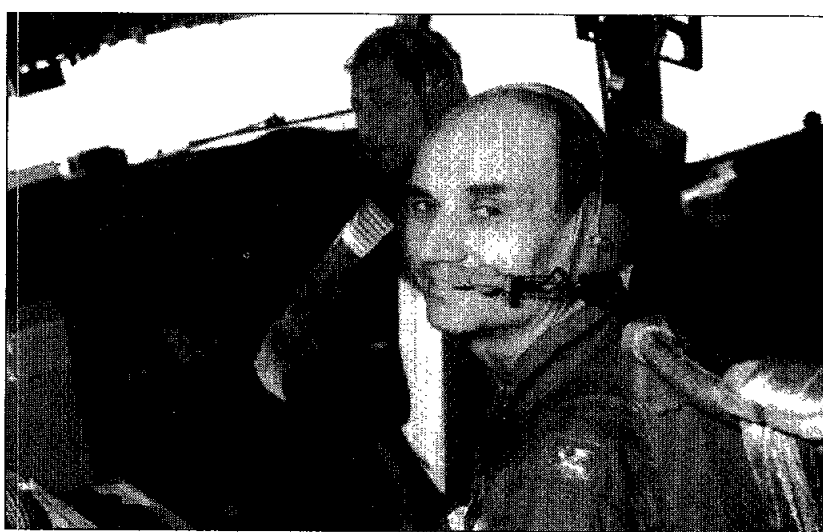
When the 1980 election gave the Republicans a majority in the Senate, Jake became chairman of the VA-HUD-IA subcommittee. For the next six years he was able to deal directly with and greatly influence the outcome for NASA funding.

During one of his first hearings as chairman in April of 1981, Jake was receiving testimony from acting NASA Administrator Alan Lovelace. It was just two days after the successful first flight of *Columbia*. He congratulated NASA and Lovelace on the success and indicated he had a very serious question.

"When do I go?" he asked.

A few weeks later, he had a visit from then-

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Garn remembered as friend to NASA

(Continued from Page 1)

newly-selected NASA Administrator James Beggs and Deputy Administrator Hans Mark. The four of us were in his office and again Jake asked his question.

Mark immediately responded that Jake should go — once the shuttle was operational. What better way to demonstrate the reliability of near-routine access to space that the shuttle is expected to provide, he asked.

From that moment on, what had been the almost light-hearted question of an envious pilot/senator became a serious interest and earnest desire. A desire that he repeated often in visits with shuttle crew members.

Then, on Nov. 8, 1984, I received a call. Jack Murphy, NASA's associate administrator for legislative affairs, was on the line telling me that Beggs was formally issuing an invitation to the four members of Congress, who chaired the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over NASA authorization and appropriations, to make an inspection flight aboard the space shuttle.

Only Jake accepted the initial invitation.

In January 1985, we came down to Houston and "set up shop," so he could begin training for his as-yet-to-be-determined flight. Many of the employees at that time didn't

quite know what to expect of the senator who had somehow gotten an invitation to fly on the shuttle. That also was true of the astronauts who learned a short time later that he was joining their mission.

I remember the day his flight assignment was announced. We actually were over the Gulf of Mexico in the "vomit comet" at the time, and soon afterwards we met with the crew.

At that first meeting, Jake remarked that people had been calling him "sir" and "senator," and he wanted to make it clear that he understood the chain of command and who the commander was. He said he did not want his fellow crewmates to think of him as a senator.

He turned to Commander Karol Bobko and said "You're the commander; you tell me to jump and my only question will be how high?"

Bo instinctively responded "Yes, sir." That was the last time I ever saw that sort of response. For the crew, it was good to hear Jake say that, but what counted was how he actually behaved.

His serious and dedicated attitude and performance as a trainee and crew member in the days and weeks that followed removed the title of "senator" for all practical purposes. He became, and remained, simply "Jake

Garn, PS-2."

Jake took his training very seriously. He had told then-JSC Director Gerry Griffin that he wanted to contribute something to the flight, not be a passenger just along for the ride. He agreed to participate in a series of medical tests, and as a result his training was tailored accordingly.

The mission was scheduled for a little less than six weeks away, so it was necessary to put him on an intense schedule, which he relished. His training was his first priority and his only interest.

The actual flight took place later than expected. STS-51E was canceled because of problems with the TDRS-B satellite it was scheduled to deploy, but by April 1985 the crew was ready to go for its new mission, STS-51D.

On launch morning, the weather and a vessel in the range area caused additional holds. Finally, the count resumed and *Discovery* was launched within 55 seconds of the end of the launch window.

Jake has said countless times that the flight was the most extraordinary and unforgettable experience of his life.

The changes that experience made in him are deep, personal and profound. Coupled with the experience of several months at JSC in preparation for the flight, Jake gained a greatly increased understanding of the agency, from the bottom up, and of what it really takes to plan, prepare and conduct a mission into space.

One of his favorite comments about the experience is:

"I spent four or five months at Johnson Space Center, with people who know what they're doing ... and then had to go back to the U.S. Senate!"

Jake didn't discover his support for the space program as a result of his training and flight experience. He clearly had it reinforced, however, by the wealth of experience that led him, for the remainder of his service in the Senate, to be an effective spokesman, partner and occasional friendly critic of NASA.

His colleagues deferred to his technical judgment and informed comment when it came to discussions of specific NASA programs, and his increased knowledge of the agency enabled him to be much more effective in evaluating NASA's programmatic and budgetary proposals.

The knowledge Jake gained and used was coupled with an emotional commitment to the space program. The deep, almost indescrib-

able, feelings of space flight and the sense of humanity that grows from seeing the Earth from that vantage point, inevitably played a factor in deepening his support for NASA and its programs.

That emotion also came to the surface and welled over in January 1986, with the loss of *Challenger* and her crew.

Not since the loss of his first wife in an automobile accident in 1976 have I seen Jake so saddened and so deeply affected by a tragedy. Yet he moved quickly to sound the positive note of continued support for NASA and for the value and importance of continued human space flight. Upon hearing the news of the accident, he immediately went to the Senate press gallery to express, in a voice choked with emotion, his sadness and sorrow for the loss of the crew and his concern for their families.

For the next several months, as the Rogers Commission investigated the accident and the press speculated and called into question NASA's abilities and the value of humans in space generally, Jake spoke on countless occasions of the importance of finding the problem quickly, fixing it, and moving on. He argued that the exploration of space was simply too important for humanity not to overcome the setback and continue. He seemed like a singular voice crying in the wilderness in Washington, as NASA-bashing became the sport of media and politicians alike.

Jake's efforts went a long way toward keeping the accident in perspective and maintaining the focus where it needed to be, in the realm of safety, reliability and quality assurance; minimizing the risks but accepting those that simply will always be a part of the exploration of space.

Soon after the accident, the question of building a replacement orbiter arose. Jake soon became frustrated that the administration seemed unable to make, what was to him, an obvious decision to request funding for a new orbiter. Jake always believed that a fleet of four orbiters was marginal, so a fleet of three was simply unacceptable.

He decided not to wait for the administration and began working with his Senate colleagues in the appropriations committee. Through a series of intense negotiations and a final important telephone conversation, he secured full up-front funding for what was to become the orbiter *Endeavour*.

That telephone conversation was significant. It took place between Jake and Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, the chairman of the Defense Appro-

priations Subcommittee. At the time, Jake was lying in a hospital bed, in a great deal of pain, having only the day before undergone the massive surgery necessary to remove one of his kidneys for transplant to his oldest daughter, who had lost her kidney function as a consequence of juvenile diabetes.

Stevens could not have any doubt about how important the issue was for Jake, considering the timing and circumstances of the call. The call was the final act in Jake's efforts to secure the final commitment of funds from the Defense Subcommittee allocation to the replacement orbiter.

Since the shuttle returned to flying, the greatest challenge facing NASA has been the continuation of support for Space Station *Freedom*. In 1986, the senate returned to the control of the Democrats, and Jake returned to his previous position as ranking minority member of the VA-HUD-IA subcommittee, with Mikulski as chair.

Many of the decisions of Congress are the result of one-on-one negotiations prior to the votes taken in committees and on the floor, which publicly and formally ratify those decisions. The instances where Jake has literally been the sole advocate within the Senate of specific NASA program initiatives are many. They are not widely known because Jake has

never been one to be overly concerned with who gets the credit for getting things done.

But Mikulski chose to make a fuss over his support for the space program and the unanimous vote in support of her amendment demonstrated the agreement of her colleagues. NASA's quiet recommendation to Mikulski of Bldg. 5 as an appropriate facility

to bear Jake's name reflects a feeling that JSC regards Jake as one of its own.

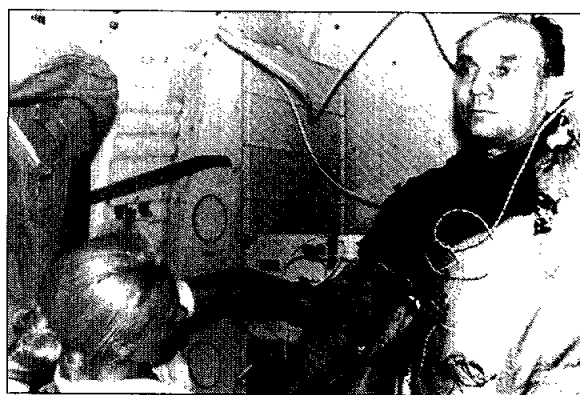
I know that's how Jake feels, and to be accepted simply as a member of the team that has the major responsibility for manned space flight is really the thing of which Jake is most proud.

To the extent the fact that his name is associated with a building at JSC reflects that acceptance, he is, I know, proud and happy to accept this generous tribute.

Note: Bingham served as a member of the Synthesis Group in 1990 and now works for Science Applications International Corporation and provides strategic planning and policy analysis support for JSC under a contract between Hernandez Engineering and the JSC New Initiatives Office. □



'His training was his first priority and his only interest.'



'The changes that experience made in him are deep, personal and profound.'

