## Huntsville Retirees GAZZETTE SPACEVILLE EDITION

The Retirement Association AUGUST 2021 Information to Overflow the Head

Join us this coming Tuesday AUGUST 10 - 11:30 at Red Lobster where the food indulges ones buds. There are hardly any horrible diseases in the place so don't worry. No program this time members unable to hear last month's cheap hearing aid discussions in need of aid. This was about testing cheap \$100 hearing aids if you want to really know write separately in a plain envelop marked personal. Data will be rushed back in a plain box marked "not really sex toys in here."

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Our very good friend Pauline Robertson lost her beloved husband of 62 years Lt Col (ret) Gerald E. Robertson 25 July. Have received statements of condolences and remembrances.

Graveside service will be conducted Monday August 30, 10 AM, at Valhalla Memory Gardens. A celebration of Lt Col Robertson's life. will be conducted 12 noon, Monday August 30, at Edgewater Clubhouse, 111 Edgewater Dr. Madison. Honorariums: to Hospice Family Care in his honor. Expressions may be shared at Valhallafunerals.com for the Robertson family.

>>> BUICK. Appears to me to be sidling out, no official word. I checked online the closest Huntsville dealer is in Cullman (?). I thought <u>Cullman</u> had been discontinued who knew? Check they may still have a Pontiac-Olds dealer that didn't get the word. Three Buick models remain one is made in (of?) China. A major brand in China, but alas not here. But a really, really great history so sorry if it goes. However. Take heed Maserati also has port holes on the side so that's some relief, a "Chrysler Peugeot" product can be bought. Just glue on a Buick emblem no one will know. Tell friends the rich leather and walnut smell is a car wash spray-on. Its Ferrrari engine sound is a recording....

>>> NASA Marshall HQ buildings will be demolished and replaced. They were falling down. Shall be missed I for many had an office there for a time. I think built by Jim Walters? In a hurry. Not keep-it gems, good bye.

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## NASA UPDATES

>>> ISS ACCESS CRAFT. Spacecraft vehicles now servicing the International Space Station are SpaceX Dragon, Northrop-Grumman Cygnus (was from Orbital ATK purchased by NGC for \$9.2B), Japanese Kounotori service and trash disposal, Russian Soyuz human transfers plus Progress supply ship, and Euro ESA Automated Transfer Vehicle. The Boeing Co. attempted a launch to the ISS in December but was scrubbed with issues and disappointingly attempted again this week, delayed again. Their rocket vehicle is a service-proven United Space Launch rocket with a complex Boeing payload pod apparently with issues being worked. Services to the Station are complex recently with two docking visitors at the same time and automated transfers. National crews on the station are separated but are connected as well except the US and Euro (ESA) sections are combined.

>>> The US Space and Rocket Museum with Space Station mock up modules used in station manufacturing is available for visitors. A specially conducted tour is currently available on arrangement to TRA members groups. Email me to arrange and amaze your guests. This is part of your TRA benefits for HSV or any TRA location.

>>> SLS- MOON-MARS VISITS. The new Saturn V-replacement, SLS (Space Launch System) NASA planetary duty rocket is in production its manufacture directed by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Huntsville, at Marshall's giant Michaud manufacturing structure at New Orleans. MIchaud is pronounced "me shoe". It's a French colony or something and they talk funny. The completed giant rockets are then moved to testing at Marshall's Stennis center nearby in MS, and then to Huntsville for tests and assemblies. Finally, the SLS is moved to Cape Canaveral for large assembly, to test launch the first this year. Too large for highways or airplanes, these site moves are accomplished

between deep water ports located at each location on rivers and canals and through size-limiting locks. Huntsville is at 600 feet elevation NOLA and Cape at zero. The Mississippi River also at New Orleans is at 26' for a confusing reference. Special water transporters are used.

-The mission part of this forthcoming project is named Artemis. But not just one. There are Artemis 1-5 proposed launches with totally different "payloads" (the tip assembly) including one that contains big telescopes and is several stories high. This is a very different approach from the (half-century) old Saturn V and just imagine the difference in microcomputers! In a few months, an initial test SLS will exit earth, wrap around and return that's all.

Eventually a subsequent complex launch to the moon I must describe later this is very complex. I wish to add, for a subsequent moon landing Northrop Grumman was selected, and this award was finalized recently, to provide a crew moon shelter living structure, protected from meteorite injuries, containing air and recycled water. Like the Space Station there are air locks to egress to explore the moon south pole where there is a longer solar day and with predicted water deposits. Surface vehicles will also be used as before.

Over half of the 24 SLS rockets were completed and processed through Huntsville. The Space Center shows a giant model of the 322 long SLS against tiny specs at the bottom of men. The first 12 were built by Boeing and the last 12 are by a consortium of subcontractors.

Later. A project is to take men to Mars with the similar habitat. Mars has many issues. For one: the trip there takes several months. But the return cannot be made for over two years! Why? Arrival is made under the best conditions of planet locations. But the damned planets continue going thousands of miles an hour and quickly separate too far. An earlier departure would result in an even later arrival with great onboard issues. And, you thought this was easy?

The Artemis – SLS programs are I think very complex and confusing and too complex to review all at once. More later. Specific questions are welcomed.