

Charles A. "Chuck" Jacobson

August 4, 2008 Blastoff

Charles A. "Chuck" Jacobson was born in Cresco, Iowa on June 2, 1925 to Julius and Beulah Jacobson. In 1952 he graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering, and then in 1956 and 1957 he completed graduate studies at St. Louis University. Chuck was married to Marjorie "Marge" Minear on June 18, 1947 and they were married until her death in 2007. There are five Chuck and Marge children (I don't know how many grandchildren): Janelle, Charles, Jr., Robert "Bob", Kent and Joan (a member of SCRC). Chuck's military career took him from U. S. Navy flight training (1943-45); Navy Pilot (1945-46), Naval Reserve Pilot (1946- 1958) to U. S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Ret.) in 1967.

Professionally, Chuck worked for McDonnell Corporation from 1952-1990, beginning in flight test data analysis on the XF3H-1, Sr. Engineer-Aerodynamics F101A, Group Engineer-Aerodynamics F101A & F4H- 1, Group Engineer-Dynamics on the Mercury Mission, Applications and Gemini Re-entry Guidance System, Sr. Group Engineer-Dynamics-Gemini & Project Dynamics Engineer- Dynamics. In 1966, the company became McDonnell Astronautics Company and Chuck was Project Dynamics Engineer-Field, Apollo and the Manager, Houston Operations. In 1968, the company became McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Company and Chuck was Director, Houston Operations. Then in 1974, another company name, McDonnell Douglas Technical Services Company with Chuck as Director, Houston Astronautics Division, and then in 1984 Vice President, General Manager. In 1985, Chuck's employer became known as McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Company, Engineering Services Division and Chuck was Vice President, General Manager. The name became McDonnell Douglas Space Systems Company, Engineering Services Division and Chuck continued in the same position of management until retirement in 1990. But, Chuck's career was not over. In 1990, he became the President of GB Tech, Inc., then Executive Vice President 2000-2003.

Chuck has been or is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), associate fellow, National Contract Management Association, Electronic Industries Association, Director of Mbank - Clear Lake, Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Assn., Navy League, JSC Team Excellence Forum Member, American Astronautical Society, South Western Aerospace -3- Professional Representatives Association, and the Johnson Space Center Chapter of the National Management Association. Chuck has received several honors and awards including the NASA Group Achievement Award, Rendezvous Operations Planning Team, AIAA St. Louis Section, Gemini Achievement Award, NASA Group Achievement Award, Apollo 11 Mission Operations Team, AIAA Houston Section Community Service Award, NASA Public Service Medal, YMCA Chuck Jacobson named Scholarship.

He was named one of the Ten Most Powerful People in the Clear Lake Area, Boy Scouts of America Bayshore District Award of Merit, Clear Lake Council of Technical Societies' Technical Administrator of the Year, Iowa State University, College of Engineering Professional Achievement Citation Award, Luna Rendezvous Festival King, Honoree - Friends of Bay Area Turning Point, Bay Area Transportation Partnership - Charles A. Jacobson Transportation Enhancement Award, North Galveston County YMCA Community Caring Award and is listed in Who's Who in Aerospace, Who's Who in Space, Who's Who in the Southwest, Who's Who in U. S. Executives and Who's Who in America. Chuck has been a member of the Rotary Club of Space Center, Houston, Texas for many years, is a Past President and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship. He served on the founding committee and board of directors of the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation which developed the premier Space Award Dinner and presentation beginning in 1987. He has served this community and Rotary in many ways, far too numerous to list. In summary, Chuck exemplifies service to humanity in every way possible.