



**Huntsville/Madison County
Chamber of Commerce**

honors

Dr. William R. Lucas

**July 8, 1986
Von Braun Civic Center**

A Biological Flight

The flight of a space shuttle is a complex operation. It involves a great deal of planning and coordination. The shuttle is launched from a launch pad and travels through the atmosphere. It then enters orbit around the Earth. The shuttle is used for a variety of purposes, including scientific research, communication, and transportation.



... A Biographical Sketch ...

Dr. William R. Lucas is the former director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama. He became director on June 15, 1974, after having served three years as deputy director. Dr. Lucas retired from government service on June 30, 1986.

He was with the Marshall Center and predecessor organizations for more than 30 years in scientific and program management positions. For most of the decade of the 60's, he served in progressively responsible management positions within the Center's Propulsion and Vehicle Engineering Laboratory, becoming laboratory director in 1966. In 1969, Dr. Lucas was named by Werhner von Braun to direct a new organization designed to look to the future. In that key position, then later as deputy director of the Center, and finally from 1974, as Center Director, Dr. Lucas was instrumental in bringing to Marshall a significant share of the nation's major space programs. Under his direction, Marshall was given responsibility for managing three of the four main Shuttle elements — the main engines on the orbiter, the solid rocket boosters, and the external tank.

Dr. Lucas joined the Army's rocket research and development team at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama in June 1952 as a staff member of the Guided Missile Development Division. A specialist in materials, he eventually became chief of the Division's Materials Branch. On February 1, 1956, he was transferred in the same capacity to the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency where, among other accomplishments, he directed the materials aspect of the successful nose cone development of the Jupiter missile. On July 1, 1960, when the Development Operations Division became the nucleus for the establishment of the Marshall Center, Dr. Lucas transferred with that group to the new organization.

Born in Newbern, Tennessee, March 1, 1922, he was educated in Tennessee schools. Dr. Lucas holds a B.S. degree in chemistry from Memphis State College, now Memphis State University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in metallurgy from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Additionally, he has been awarded honorary doctoral degrees by Mobile College (humane letters), Southeastern Institute of Technology (science), and University of Alabama in Huntsville (science).

Dr. Lucas served as a Naval officer during World War II.

Most of his early professional experience was in materials research and engineering. His specialties were metallurgy and inorganic chemistry, particularly the study of environmental effects on materials, such as the extremes of temperature, corrosion, and other chemical effects. He has authored many publications and holds two patents.

Dr. Lucas is a Fellow of the American Society of Metals, a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society, a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi. He is a trustee of Mobile (Alabama) College and has been a member of the Alabama Space Exhibit Commission since May 1976.

Dr. Lucas was awarded the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement on October 15, 1964. He received the Hermann Oberth Award from the Alabama Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics on November 5, 1965 for outstanding individual contributions to the fields of aeronautics and astronautics. The Holger N. Toftoy Award recognizing outstanding technical management in the fields of aeronautics and astronautics was presented to him on January 22, 1976 also by the Alabama Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

On September 9, 1980, President Carter conferred on Dr. Lucas the new rank of Distinguished Executive in recognition of sustained extraordinary accomplishment in the career Federal service. In recognition for his contributions to the Nation's space program, Memphis State University presented to Dr. Lucas the Distinguished Alumni Award on April 20, 1984. Dr. Lucas received the Aubrey D. Green Award on January 12, 1986 from the Alabama Lions Club (Lions International) for significant contributions to a better community, state, and nation throughout his personal, business, and professional life. For his major contributions in research and management areas, he was selected in February 1986 by the Tennessee Technology Foundation as one of Tennessee's Outstanding Scientists and Engineers.

Dr. Lucas is married to the former Miss Polly Torti of Memphis, and the couple has three children: Donna Lucas Watts; William R., Jr.; and Michael.

Program

Welcome Mr. Joseph C. Moquin
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer
Teledyne Brown Engineering

Invocation John W. Holloway
Minister of Students
First Baptist Church

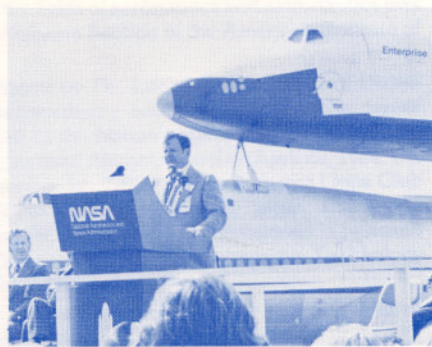
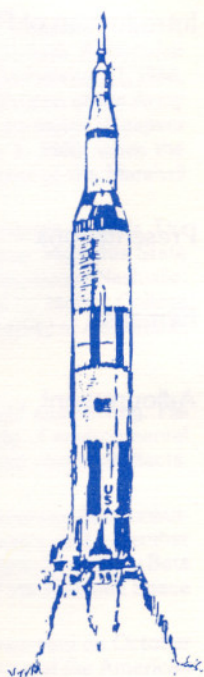
Introduction of Platform Guests Mr. Joseph C. Moquin

Dinner

Presentations

Remarks Dr. William R. Lucas

Adjournment Mr. Joseph C. Moquin



NASA

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Marshall Space Flight Center

