

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



July 19, 2011

Reply to Attn of: LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ James R. Frees

SUBJECT: Approval for NASA Employees in Senior Leadership and External Relations Positions to Attend the Eighth Annual Space Exploration Celebration "Salute to the Space Shuttle Program"

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Several NASA employees who have Senior Leadership and External Relations Positions have been invited to attend the Eighth Annual Space Exploration Celebration (formerly known as the Saturn/Apollo Reunion) at the United States Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) on Friday, August 26, 2011. This year's event will be a special "Salute to the Space Shuttle Program," and will include a buffet barbecue dinner and program.

The USSRC is an agency of the State of Alabama, and is the visitor information center for Marshall Space Flight Center. The USSRC is committed to educating the public about the history of the U.S. Space Program and the work being done at MSFC.

Dr. George Mueller, NASA Associate Administrator, Office of Manned Space Flight from 1963 to 1969, will speak. Many astronauts have been invited, including 18 astronauts who have ties to the State of Alabama. In addition, new members will be inducted into the Space Camp Hall of Fame. This event is co-sponsored by the USSRC and Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne (PWR). PWR is paying for space rental, promotional materials, and some expenses.

This event is open to all current and former Space Campers and their families, local community and civic officials, local elected officials and political leaders, government employees, Redstone Arsenal leaders, contractor employees, local business leaders, members of the press, space and aviation enthusiasts, the academic community, economic development community, and others. Approximately 800 guests are expected and tickets for the dinner cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

Several NASA employees with Senior Leadership or External Relations responsibilities have been invited to this event.¹ NASA personnel invited to attend this event presently, or may in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to USSRC or PWR. These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future agreements with USSRC and PWR or could significantly affect the interests of USSRC and PWR.

I have determined that free attendance of these individuals and their spouses or guests at the event is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these NASA officials at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these individuals attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

Neither the USSRC or Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne are lobbying organizations and are not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf Coffel at 256-544-0025.



for James R. Frees
Acting Chief Counsel

¹ The MSFC Center Director; Associate Director Technical; Special Assistant to the Associate Administrator for ESMD; Manager, Science and Mission Systems Office; Supervisor, External Relations Office; Lead, Protocol, Events, and Community Relations Team; MSFC Exhibits Manager; MSFC Exhibits Public Program Specialist; Academic Affairs Office Supervisor; and AST Engineering Project Management for Program Planning and Control, have been invited to attend this event.

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Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



July 19, 2011

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/James R. Frees

SUBJECT: Blanket Approval for NASA Employees to Attend the Eighth Annual Space Exploration Celebration "Salute to the Space Shuttle Program"

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Several NASA employees have been invited to attend the Eighth Annual Space Exploration Celebration (formerly known as the Saturn/Apollo Reunion) at the United States Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) on Friday, August 26, 2011. This year's event will be a special "Salute to the Space Shuttle Program," and will include a buffet barbecue dinner and program.

The USSRC is an agency of the State of Alabama, and is the visitor information center for Marshall Space Flight Center. The USSRC is committed to educating the public about the history of the U.S. Space Program and the work being done at MSFC.

Dr. George Mueller, NASA Associate Administrator, Office of Manned Space Flight from 1963 to 1969, will speak. Many astronauts have been invited, including 18 astronauts who have ties to the State of Alabama. In addition, new members will be inducted into the Space Camp Hall of Fame. This event is co-sponsored by the USSRC and Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne (PWR). PWR is paying for space rental, promotional materials, and some expenses.

This event is open to all current and former Space Campers and their families, local community and civic officials, local elected officials and political leaders, government employees, Redstone Arsenal leaders, contractor employees, local business leaders, members of the press, space and aviation enthusiasts, the academic community, economic development community, and others. Approximately 800 guests are expected. Tickets for the dinner cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance of these NASA employees at the event is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. This will help to raise NASA's profile with local business and governmental leaders, will

contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having NASA employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne or the U.S. Space and Rocket Center are not covered in this determination and should seek a specific determination from this office pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in this event.

The USSRC and Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne are not lobbying organizations and are not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf Coffel at 256-544-0025.


for James R. Frees
Acting Chief Counsel