

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation
The Center for Space Education
 Mail Code AMF
 Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation is a private 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Boeing Awards The AMF \$10,000 Grant

Educators throughout the State of Florida will have the opportunity to participate in technology training for Windows Server 2003 thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Boeing Florida Operations company. **Bruce Melnick**, a former astronaut and vice president of the Boeing Florida Operations, presented the check to Stephen Feldman, president of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation (AMF). The grant will provide the funds to develop and offer the Windows Server 2003 (WS2003) course to all K-12 teachers in Brevard County and the 66 other school districts in the state.

The WS2003 technology training initiative is in direct response to requests from the school districts to offer this type of program as Windows NT is being replaced with the WS2003 platform. The program will be developed and delivered by the faculty of the AMF. All training will take place at the AMF's Center for Space Education located at the Kennedy Space Center. Educators are eligible for state in-service credits through the completion of this program.

Beginning in October, 2004, the WS2003 will be offered to 120 teachers/media specialists/technology specialists. According to **Gene Tavares**, vice president of the AMF, "Those 120 educators will return to their school districts and train at least five other teachers, who in turn will impact at least 50 of their students. Applying the multiplier effect, a potential 30,000 individuals could be affected by the AMF's WS2003 training program."

For more information about the WS2003 training program or other programs offered by the AMF, contact the Education Department at 321-452-2887. Also, visit the AMF's Web site at www.amfcse.org.



Dr. Stephen Feldman (left), president of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, accepts a \$10,000 grant from Bruce Melnick, vice president of Boeing Florida Operations, in one of the AMF's computer training labs.

"As a living memorial to the astronauts we honor, The Astronauts Memorial Foundation will become a major influence on the future of education through the excitement of technology and space to ensure that future generations are prepared to face the challenges, both on and off our celestial home . . . The Spaceship Earth."



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EXCELLENCE

APRIL 2004

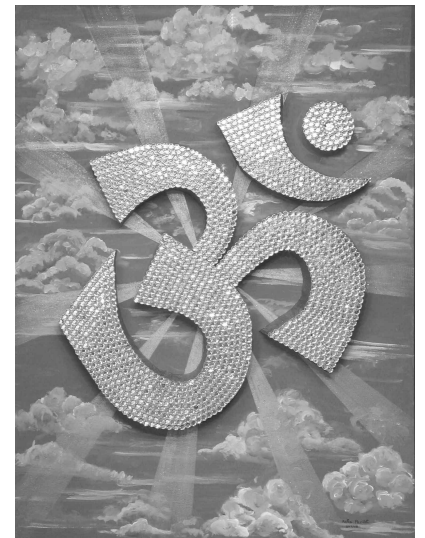
Indian Artist Honors Astronauts through Art and Donation

A print of a painting created by artist **Asha Parikh** entitled *Eternal Light* has a permanent home in the hallway of the Center for Space Education (CSE). What began, in January 2003, as a commissioned art piece for the 25th anniversary of Ankur Gujarati Samaj, Parikh's community cultural center and temple in Cincinnati, Ohio, evolved into spiritually-inspired art in honor of the Columbia astronauts.

"When I was asked to create the painting, *AUM*, I had decided that my composition would be to suspend the symbol in the heavens. Towards the end of January, 2003, I was already in the midst of painting the skies (heavens). My mindset was then in the heavens and the painting was sacred and spiritual. On February first, the Columbia tragedy took place and the painting now took a turn and became emotional as well, as I could not get the tragedy out of my mind," explained Parikh. *AUM* is a Hindu symbol that denotes the first primal sound marking the big bang or creation of the universe. Its constant chanting is said to send vibrations generating cosmic energy, and it denotes the cycle of creation, preservation and destruction.

Her heart heavy with the thought of the death of Kalpana and the other Columbia astronauts, Parikh recalled the words of a song by poet Rabindranath Tagore, which began to haunt her: 'In these heavens is my Salvation ... light ... O ... light.' Parikh does not know why the song came to her after 33 years, which is when she learned it as a student. "Perhaps it was God's will. I called the painting *Eternal Light* and combined it with a quotation from the song by Tagore — 'In these heavens is my Salvation ... light ... O ... light,'" said Parikh.

Parikh contacted the AMF shortly after the unveiling of *Eternal Light* and explained the meaning of the painting to the AMF president, Stephen



Eternal Light, original art by Asha Parikh, is a three-foot by four-foot mixed medium on canvas. The background of sky, clouds and rays are in acrylics. The *AUM* is three-dimensional in foam and crystal.

President's Perspective

Stephen Feldman, Ph.D.



(The following is a reprint of a letter written by Stephen Feldman to Paul Tagliabue, Commissioner of the National Football League, following the airing of Super Bowl XXXVIII. This letter has been reprinted in many newspapers throughout the United States.)

Last year, I was delighted to learn that you had decided to honor the crew of space shuttle Columbia and their families at Super Bowl XXXVIII on February 1, 2004, the first anniversary of the tragic accident.

These astronauts had sacrificed their lives for the nation and the space program and your decision to honor them was in good taste and appropriate at the Super Bowl which has become a major social and cultural event in our country and which was viewed by more than 140 million men, women and children. The song in tribute to the astronauts by Josh Groban, and the chorus of young people who accompanied him, was performed magnificently and I believe many in the viewing audience were truly touched by the lyrics and the music.

Tom Brady was at President Bush's State of the Union speech and served as a symbol of integrity at a time that the President was discussing the use of steroids in professional sports, particularly baseball and football. The fact that Mr. Brady won the Most Valuable Player Award, in an exciting and well-played game, added to the stature of the event.

Given this convergence of positive events, it would appear to be an opportunity to reinforce the Super Bowl as America's premier sporting event. This would bring financial rewards and stature to the entire NFL.

Instead, the press reports and talk shows in the days following the game have discussed how Justin Timberlake had partially disrobed Janet Jackson on network television in prime time. This one act appears to be symbolic of the disrespect shown by

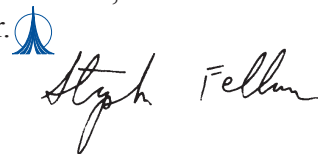
the NFL to the families of the astronauts it purported to honor, for the deceased Columbia crew, for the space program in general, and for more than 140 million viewers.

The advertisements in the early Super Bowls were humorous and entertaining and in good taste. This year they tended to be vulgar and disrespectful. Viewing a dog biting someone in the crotch so that he would throw his beer in the air, watching an elderly couple fight for a bag of potato chips with the man pushing the woman down with a cane, and then having to explain to a child, who is watching the game, why a drug would be sold for erectile dysfunction did not bring dignity to the event.

These advertisements were accompanied by a halftime show produced by MTV which gave credence to values of questionable worth: a singer uses an American flag as his clothing (while we have men and women fighting in Iraq for that same American flag which is held dear by many in this country), a second singer fondling himself during the performance, and finally, the disrobing of Ms. Jackson. While the commercials and most, if not all, of the half-time show is protected by the First Amendment, it is inconsistent with an organization that is claiming to be honoring our fallen astronauts, who made the ultimate sacrifice flying in a shuttle—a space shuttle bearing an American flag.

Following the enormous amount of criticism which followed Super Bowl XXXVIII, you stated that next year the NFL will monitor the half-time show more carefully in order to avoid a repeat of the incident with Mr. Timberlake and Ms. Jackson. My question to you is "why didn't the NFL monitor their product this year?"

However, there is a far more pressing question that goes much deeper than that. "Do you wish for the Super Bowl to be America's game honoring national heroes, or are you willing to compromise the NFL's large viewing audience with raunchy commercials and an off-color and disrespectful half-time show?" If you choose the latter, then please do not use astronauts, who were willing to die for their nation, as attractions to be sold to the highest bidder.


Steph Feldman

Message from the Chairman

It is with a strong sense of honor yet humility that I begin my term as Chairman of the Board of The Astronauts Memorial Foundation. Since joining the board, I have witnessed the strong conviction of my predecessor Chuck Clemente and other fellow board members to sustain and further the founding causes of this organization. On behalf of the Foundation at large, I extend sincere appreciation to Chuck for his three years of leadership, and to other fellow members of the board for what they have accomplished together. With their continued support, I look forward to building on this momentum into the years ahead.

As Chuck noted in his December message to us, the effectiveness of the Foundation is in large part due to the ongoing efforts of our president, Dr. Stephen Feldman, and a passionately committed staff. Because of them, many initiatives envisioned by the Board have come to full fruition. It is their day-to-day focus on the Foundation's mission that keeps us on the growth track.

Speaking of growth, it was early in my affiliation with the Foundation that I was pleased to see a definitive strategic plan in place. Truly, such a plan maps our path into future expansion and growth. Together, as a board, we will be reassessing our near-term and long-range plans as we move forward. A

Computers in Education Continued from Page 5

kids a chance to make it in tomorrow's world. If we can get them off to a good start, then we've done something positive."

The Foundation is proud to support *Computers for Education*. It is in keeping with our mission to bring the excitement of technology to the classroom. For more information about the program, contact Bassett at cajincook@earthlink.net.

New AMF Officers Continued from Page 4

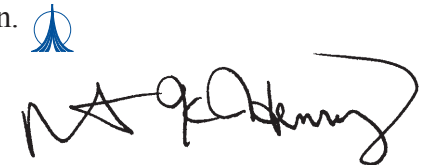
administration. Mike is very active in professional and civic organizations on the local, state and national level.

Joining the AMF as new directors are **Major General Charles F. "Charlie" Bolden, Jr., (Ret.)** and **Robert "Bob" Sieck**. Charlie Bolden is senior vice president of TechTrans International, Inc. of Houston, Texas. He became the first African American marine

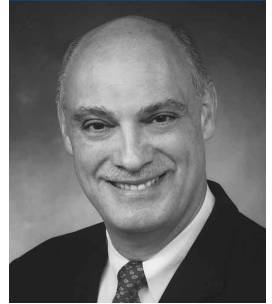
realistically challenging guide plan is a necessity for any thriving organization. Financial practices that yield fiscal stability may be only a component of a comprehensive plan, but a critical one. Maintaining solid affiliations with NASA and other space-based organizations is another key component. We cannot afford to pursue our mission alone.

We must never forget that none of the Foundation's accomplishments would be possible without the compassion and financial support of our donors. Thank you all.

Let us stay ever mindful of our core mission. It is twofold: (1) to continue to memorialize our Astronauts who made the ultimate sacrifice to further mankind's exploration of space; and (2) to provide leading edge educational technology to our nation's educators and educational policy makers. Please join our board, our staff and our fellow Foundation supporters as we seek to keep the "living memorial" flame alive ... for this and every future generation.



Robert K. Henry



to serve as a Space Shuttle pilot and commander, having flown aboard Columbia, Discovery and Atlantis. Charlie has been the recipient of several distinguished service medals. Bob Sieck is currently a member of the Stafford-Covey Shuttle Return to Flight Task Group. He retired from his long-term career with NASA as director of shuttle processing. Bob was launch director for 52 space shuttle missions, and is a well-respected member of the NASA community. We are extremely happy to have Charlie and Bob join our team.

Our thanks go to Forrest McCartney and Anthony England for the time and expertise they have contributed to the Foundation's mission. Having completed his term of office, Forrest will now serve on our board of trustees. Also completing his term of service as director, Anthony has worked very hard on behalf of the Foundation and will remain a part of the AMF family. We also want to acknowledge the efforts of our incumbent directors and thank them for their continuing support and dedication to the AMF.



Left to right: Presenting a check for \$11,107 are Dr. Anuradha Kulkarni; Asha Parikh, Eternal Light artist; Stephen Feldman, president, the AMF; Vijay Parikh; and Stiney Vonderharr, councilman of Evendale, Ohio.

Feldman. In June 2003, a poster-size print of *Eternal Light* was placed on display at the CSE. Additionally, Parikh sent all seven families of the Columbia astronauts a framed print of the artwork.

Inspired by the connection with the AMF, the Parikhs, — Asha and her husband, Vijay, — decided to sell a limited number of *Eternal Light* prints to raise funds for the AMF with the agreement of Ankur Gujarati Samaj, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Their objective for over six months was to collect a respectable amount for the AMF and donate it as a contribution from the Indian community on the one-year anniversary of the Columbia disaster. On February 4, the Parikhs presented a check for \$11,107 to the AMF. Upon receiving the donation, Feldman said, “There were hundreds of items received by the Foundation after the Columbia tragedy, but the *Eternal Light* print was one of very few selected for display at the CSE as it was of a superior quality.” A permanent plaque at the National Space Mirror Memorial will be placed to recognize the donation.

Parikh said the fundraising will continue as long as possible. She also said that there were requests from South Africa for the prints, which were sent and fundraising took place in December 2003. All donations collected, after the cost of the prints and frames, will be sent to the AMF. Administrative costs for the project are less than two percent as all travel and related expenses are paid by the Parikhs. “The United States has offered us a great opportunity for economic and personal growth, and with this project,

we give back in a small way to our adopted country,” said the Parikhs.

“We have a print of *Eternal Light* hanging in the hallway of the CSE, adjacent to a photo of Kalpana and Florida’s Governor Jeb Bush, and a second print in the boardroom of the AMF near photos of world-renowned astronauts. We are moved and honored by the support that Asha has show to the space program and the AMF,” said Feldman.

For more information about *Eternal Light*, or to make a donation, please visit www.aum-eternal-light.com or contact vparikh40@aol.com.

(Asha Devi (Singh) Parikh was born in Petermaritzburg, South Africa. After finishing high school, she went to India to study fine arts where she graduated from Visva Bharti University. This institution was established by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and is recognized as one of the finest art institutions in India. Asha returned to South Africa to teach oriental and western art. After her marriage in 1980, she immigrated to Cincinnati, Ohio. Asha teaches art at local schools, and her artwork is exhibited in local art shows.)



The AMF Welcomes New Slate of Officers

The board and staff of the Foundation extend their ongoing support and commitment to the incoming slate of officers and new directors. Leading the board of directors as chairman is **Robert “Bob” K. Henry**, senior vice president of the Harris Corporation and president of the Government Communications Systems Division. Bob has a broad technical, business and operations background with 33 years in the aerospace and defense industries. Serving as vice chairman is **P. Michael “Mick” Ukleja, Ph.D.**, founder and president of LeadershipTraQ, a leadership consortium specializing in the area of self-leadership. Mick has written numerous professional journals and publications. In the position of treasurer is **Larry Fraczak**, vice president and director of Merrill Lynch and Company. He brings a depth of business and financial experience to our organization. Larry is renowned for his diverse community service. Our incoming secretary is **Michael “Mike” D. Means**, FACHE, who is the President and CEO of Health First. He has an extensive background in healthcare

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Computers for Education Impacts Future Workforce

A little over five years ago, **Freebie Bassett** recognized the critical need of local-area schools for more computers in the classrooms. Bassett conceived a plan and today that idea is a full-fledged, wide-reaching program called *Computers for Education* that donates between 600 and 800 refurbished computers a year to schools and non-profit organizations that meet the criteria to be a recipient of the program.

In addition to schools and organizations throughout the State of Florida benefiting from the program, computers that do not meet the American local standards are part of international outreach programs. Computers have been donated to schools in Nigeria, Nicaragua, Crimea, and the Bahamas, and this year computers will be shipped to Bogotá, Columbia.

The program that was conceived of and directed by Bassett is now a partnership between the AMF, NASA and the *Computers for Education* Program.

Although the *Computers for Education* program has been recognized by numerous awards, the best testimony is a first-hand account from a Titusville High School (THS) teacher who is a beneficiary of donated computer equipment. **Mike Arnett**, who teaches the Automotive Technology Program at THS, extols the program’s value and success. Arnett says:

“As the sources for information have rapidly grown through the use of computers and the Internet, public schools have not been able to keep up with the technology curve. The *Computers for Education* program has given THS, along with other schools, the opportunity for students to access this information because of donations of large numbers of fully functioning computers, printers, switches and other data processing equipment. The systems, usually only a few years old but obsolete in the business world, are ideal for many of the learning labs students use to research information on the Internet. This creates a perfect match between schools and industry.

“The first program to utilize the donated computers was the Automotive Technology Program. The automotive program uses an Internet-based curriculum and also uses the Internet to access service manuals. This allows the automotive program to stay current on all the information needed to learn



Just a few of the many volunteers dedicating their time and talent to the *Computers for Education* program. Seated in the middle is Freebie Bassett, president, *Computers for Education*.

to service the new technology used in the automotive industry. In addition, it reduces the cost of having to purchase the printed materials. In this program, the school doubles its savings to the taxpayer. Without the *Computers for Education* program, the automotive program would never have been able to purchase the computers.

“Additionally, the school has been able to set up a student computer lab for all the instructors to use. Now entire classes can use computer labs to do research or use software that is used to improve student performance and understanding.

“The benefits that THS and the education system have received are real and measurable. Without the *Computers for Education* program, many programs might never have had the opportunity to expand and develop to their full potential.”


Key to the success of the program is the core of volunteers who spend untold hours of their personal time salvaging and repairing the equipment to transform it into a viable tool for the classroom. Bassett, president of the *Computers for Education* program, thrives on the results. His enthusiasm is contagious as he says, “First, a tremendous thanks goes to United Space Alliance, NASA, Kennedy Space Center contractors as well as other corporate and private donors. Without their donations of outdated equipment, there would be no program. But most importantly, we are providing the tools and capacity for children and individuals to compete. Today, everything is technology driven. We have to give these

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Hail, Columbia Capital Campaign Update

Last year, the Foundation embarked on a capital campaign, Hail, Columbia, to raise money to honor the Columbia astronauts after the Space Shuttle accident on February 1, 2003. Adding the names of Columbia's seven astronauts to the National Space Mirror Memorial and adding their photos and biographies to a new Biographical Wall incurred construction costs. The AMF spent \$485,000 and raised a total of \$561,200. This includes a \$175,000 grant from the Federal Government and \$386,200 in private donations.

The capital campaign allowed us to pay for all of the ceremonies and construction costs necessary to honor the Columbia astronauts. The surplus that was raised has been added to the Memorial Endowment. Of particular note, less than three percent of the amount raised was spent on conducting the campaign.

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation owes a debt of gratitude to the following individuals and organizations that demonstrated their support of America's space program, and most importantly, their respect for and tribute to *Rick Husband, William McCool, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Ilan Ramon and their families*. Thank you. 



COLUMBIA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Donor Wall

PILOTS CLUB

Gimpex Ltd.	\$73,000
W&J Construction	\$60,000

PAYLOAD SPECIALISTS CLUB

The Employees of United Space Alliance	\$25,000
Creative Edge Master Shop	\$40,000
Florida Memorial Gardens	\$25,000

MISSION SPECIALISTS CLUB

ATK Thiokol Propulsion	\$10,000
The Boeing Company	\$10,000
Continental Airlines	\$10,000+
Delaware North Companies	
Parks & Resorts at KSC, Inc.	\$10,000
Eternal Light Donors & Ankur Foundation	\$11,100
Jack & Ruth Eckerd	\$10,000
Lockheed Martin Corporation	\$10,000
Northrop Grumman Corporation	\$10,000
Richard's Paint Mfg. Co.	\$10,000
Guy & Delores Spearman	\$10,000
Wachovia Bank	\$10,000

Subtotal: \$334,100

ASTRONAUTS CLUB

Brevard Stone	\$9,000
BRPH Companies	\$5,000
Florida Today	\$5,000
Walter & Dottie Gatti	\$5,000
Harris Corporation	\$5,000
Malcolm Kirschenbaum	\$5,000
Jim & Jonnie Swann	\$5,000

FOUNDATION CLUB

Gene Bjerning	\$1,500
Robert L. Crippen	\$1,000
Bionetics Corporation	\$1,000
Cornerstone Engineering	\$1,000
Computer Sciences Corporation	\$1,000
Creative Techniques	\$1,000
Island Lincoln Mercury	\$1,000
Johnson Controls	\$1,000
Marblelife	\$1,000
On Deck	\$2,600
ZHA, Inc.	\$1,000

Subtotal: \$52,100

GRAND TOTAL: \$386,200

New "Space Plate" Unveiled



Left to right: At the unveiling of new Space Plate in front of the National Space Mirror Memorial - Frank Kinney, executive director, TRDA; Susan Berry, teacher, Mila Elementary School; Senator Bill Posey; Representative Ralph Poppell; Kirstie Chadwick, sister of Columbia pilot, Willie McCool; and Stephen Feldman, president, the AMF.

On the morning of January 28 — the eighteenth anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy — in front of the National Space Mirror Memorial at Kennedy Space Center, the AMF revealed its new Challenger — Columbia license plate. Better known as the Space Plate, this is the third generation of the license plate.

In 1987, the Challenger license plate — the first specialty license plate in the country — was created to honor the heroes of the Challenger. Sold throughout the State of Florida, its purpose was to generate funding to ensure that the astronauts' quest for the future exploration of space was carried out through technology education. This has been accomplished through the AMF and the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA).

The AMF uses its allotment of plate sales to maintain the National Space Mirror Memorial and to constantly upgrade the Center for Space Education (CSE) — a 47,000-square-foot facility that serves as a place for teachers to attend technology training programs and as a place for their students to learn about space exploration and technology. According to **Susan Berry**, a teacher from Mila Elementary School in Merritt Island, Florida, "It's amazing that this profound of an effect was made possible simply through a license plate. I can't even begin to express how much of a difference this program makes in the lives of teachers, like myself." Susan is

one of hundreds of teachers who have participated in Challenger-license-plate-funded programs at the CSE.

Representing all of the Columbia families was **Kirstie Chadwick**, the sister of Columbia Pilot Willie McCool. Referring to the one-year anniversary of the Space Shuttle Columbia accident, Kirstie remembered her brother Willie's thirst and desire to explore the heavens above. "Through this newly expanded license plate, my brother and his brave crew members' spirits will be honored forever. The new Space Plate creates a new tomorrow. From education programs to workforce development, proceeds from the sale of this plate go directly towards helping people achieve their dreams. I know that makes Willie very happy," said Kirstie. "On behalf of my family and all of the Columbia crew member families, thank you for this wonderful recognition of our loved ones. Through the new Space Plate, their mission will continue," stated Kirstie.

The TRDA benefits from 50 percent of license plate sales. From these proceeds, the TRDA develops initiatives and administers programs to address Florida's education needs, to enhance space research and to spur the state's economic growth. Programs such as The Endeavour Academy and Teacher Quest scholarships are just a few examples. **Frank Kinney**, the executive director of the TRDA, explained how the Space Plate came to be. "In the weeks following the Columbia accident, two of our state's leaders — **Representative Ralph Poppell** and **Senator Bill Posey** — led an initiative to expand the scope of the existing Challenger plate to also memorialize the Columbia crew. Both houses unanimously passed the bill, which was signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush on May 21, 2003," said Kinney.

The Space Plate became available for sale in state tag offices in mid-February. Perhaps best summed up by **Chuck Clemente**, past chair of the Foundation, he said, "The Space Plate is a win-win for everyone. Floridians get the opportunity to salute these heroes of space, while the funds raised from their plate purchases honor the astronauts and help teachers to nurture the explorers of tomorrow and create a brighter future for Floridians."

For more information about the Space Plate, visit www.amfcse.org or call 321-452-2887. 