



John E. McLeaish

July 11, 1929 - December 26, 2007

John Edward McLeaish passed away on December 26, 2006 after a brave battle with a long illness. McLeaish was born in Houston, Texas on July 11, 1929 and reared in Weslaco. He spent three years at Rice University majoring in English before the Korean War intervened. He finished his final months of college at the University of Houston earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism. McLeaish joined the NASA space agency in 1962. He served as Chief of Public Information Office for 16 years where he directed news operations for 29 manned space missions. He also served as the NASA spokesman locked in quarantine with the Apollo 11 crew after the first moon landing and acted as Mission Control Commentator for Gemini, Apollo, Skylab and shuttle flights. During the Apollo years, he was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service medal for Skylab news operations and shared in the Presidential Medal of Freedom award with Mission Control personnel as a result of being mission commentator at the time of the Apollo 13 explosion. McLeaish retired from NASA in 1984 and moved to San Antonio in 1999. He is survived by his wife, Patsy McLeaish; son, John McLeaish, Jr. and wife Kathy; daughter, Carol Ann Abel and Fiance Paul LaCombe; son Joe D. Burton and wife Tere; two grand-daughters, Katie McLeaish and Theresa Jo Burton. He is also survived by his brother Bobby McLeaish and wife Penny and brother-in-law Tommy Thomas and wife Betsy. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Mr. McLeaish's caregivers and friends at Regent Care Center on Blanco Rd.

Tribute Wall

PB

“ Thanks again for being my sponsor John. You are not forgotten.

Pete Braccio - January 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ John will be well remembered by all of us who had the pleasure of working with him at NASA.

Neil Armstrong - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Many warm memories flow over me about those formative years in my life with John, Ben James, and Bob Workman inducting me into the frenetic world of covering the Apollo missions. The Celestial Press Club awaits!!!

Bobby Jones - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Patsy,
I just found out yesterday. Please accept my condolences. I have always believed that when we leave here, we go on to a better place. I also have no doubt Harold met him at the door and they'll've been partying ever since!
I hope you are d

marganette williams - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ He taught us how.

John Lawrence - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ I worked with John for many years at JSC. It was an exciting time and I have many good memories.

Frank Mayes - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Godspeed, John.

Jack

Jack Kroehnke - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ I appreciated Ed giving my son pictures from space of South America as our son was on his way to Brazil as a Rotary exchange student. Patsy, God be with you and the family.

Gwen Kelly Royall - January 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ I worked down the hall from John in the soundroom, and the door to Mr McLeaish's office was always open, for a chit chat. Much of the audio tapes I listened to had John's commentary on it. I will miss you John.

Pete Nubile - January 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Patsy, I well remember the visits Ed and I had at our 50th WHS reunion. He was telling me all about cruising, and how he really loved it. He got me informed and excited about it and consequently, Fred and I have already gone on three. The first one bein

Doris Jean Potts Lister - January 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM