

March 9, 2007



## **Maj. Jill “Raggz” Long among the VIPs participating in Space Camp’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center<sup>®</sup> proudly announces the addition of Major Jill “Raggz” Long to the list of dignitaries who will help Space Camp<sup>®</sup> celebrate 25 years of teaching students to reach for the stars.

Maj. Long will be the featured guest at a VIP reception on Thursday, July 5, 2007, in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center’s museum. Long’s is one of almost a dozen weekly VIP receptions planned this summer to give the public a chance to meet and interact with pilots, engineers, astronauts and others who have made significant contributions to aviation, the aerospace industry and America’s manned space flight program.

Flying since the age of 16, Maj. Long has logged more than 3,000 hours in numerous military and civilian aircraft. She has over 50 combat flight missions on her record, including service in Afghanistan and Kosovo. She has been awarded the Air Medal, the Joint Commendation Medal and has twice been awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal.

Today, Maj. Long divides her time between serving as an instructor pilot at Euro-NATO Joint Pilot Training in Texas and pursuing a career as an aerobatic pilot, thrilling audiences across the nation with her nimble Pitts S2-B stunt plane. Her passion for aviation is infectious and her career an inspiration for young and old alike.

While in Huntsville, Maj. Long will also address Space Camp and Aviation Challenge<sup>®</sup> graduation ceremonies on Friday, July 6, and participate in a VIP/Camper luncheon with camp graduates at the Center early that afternoon. On Saturday, July 6, she’ll meet with attendees of the Parent/Child Space Camp<sup>®</sup> program and attend a special dinner at the Center that evening. Her visit concludes Saturday night with a special fireworks display in Rocket Park.

Tickets for Maj. Long’s VIP reception are \$25. They will be available in advance from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and available the day of the event at the door. The event begins at 6:00 p.m.

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