

March 13, 2007

USSRC Plans VIP Reception for Cmdr. Patricia “Trish” Beckman, USN (Ret)

Retired Naval combat pilot and Huntsville native Commander Patricia “Trish” Beckman joins the ranks of VIPs who will visit the U.S. Space & Rocket Center® this summer helping celebrate the 25th anniversary of Space Camp®. Cmdr. Beckman will be among the featured guests at the Thursday Night VIP Reception in the Museum on June 21, 2007 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and will be available in advance from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and available at the door the night of the event.



Beckman, who currently flies for Boeing Commercial Airplanes Group, has logged over 4,400 hours of flight time in 71 aircraft types. She repeatedly demonstrated her tenacity during her 28 years in the Navy as she climbed through the enlisted and then the officer ranks. She was one of the first group of Navy women navigators to qualify as Naval flight officers and attend test pilot school where she eventually taught. She was also the first woman to qualify as a crewmember in the F-15E, and the first American woman to qualify as a crewmember in the F/A-18D.

In 1990, she helped educate the US Senate on the capabilities of women military aviators. Her efforts were rewarded by the subsequent repeal of the combat exclusion laws, and then the 1993 change in executive branch policy, which now allows women to fly aircraft engaged in combat missions. Cmdr. Beckman is a Past President of Women Military Aviators, Inc., and is a founding board member of Women in Aviation, International. She volunteers as a workshop presenter for Sally Ride Science, at festivals around the country, to encourage girls to pursue careers in math and science.

Cmdr. Beckman will be joined at the reception by former NASA astronaut Dr. Story Musgrave, a veteran of six space shuttle flights. She will also be the featured speaker at Space Camp graduation ceremonies on Friday, June 22, and will be on-hand to greet in-coming trainees that afternoon.

For more information on this or any of the many events surrounding the 25th anniversary of Space Camp, visit www.spacecamp.com.

#

(NOTE: The contact for this release is Al Whitaker, Media Relations Manager, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama. 256-721-7160. Email: media@spacecamp.com)

