Shelby Jacobs
1935 -2022

To our friends and family,
With heavy heart, we share the sad news of
the passing of our beloved husband,
father, and grandfather, Shelby
Jacobs, Jr. Shelby passed peacefully at
3:33 pm on Monday, September 5, 2022,
surrounded by those he loved so deeply.
We will share more information about a
memorial service when we are able.
Elizabeth, Shelley, and little Shelby

Shelby Jacobs

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Shelby B.Jacobs (born 1935 in Dallas, Texas) is an American engineer known for adapting camera technology that shot the iconic film of the separation between the first and second stages of the Saturn V rocket.[1][2][3]

Career

Jacobs spent most of his career at Rockwell (under contract to NASA), starting at Rocketdyne (Canoga Park, Ca) a division of North American Aviation (NAA) which became Rockwell International where he designed engine components, hydraulics, pneumatics and propulsion systems (5/6 years).[4] Jacobs transferred to Rockwell Space

Division (Downey) was a mechanical engineer in Rocket Propulsion Systems on Apollo/Saturn-II.

[5] In 1965, he was given a special assignment to work on a camera system to film the rocket separation of the Apollo 6 launch.[4] NASA provided the Camera Systems used on prior low earth orbit programs and requested Rockwell to install camera systems for visual confirmation of extensive Separation Systems analyses and tests. The camera was first launched on Apollo 4, however Apollo 6 on April 4, 1968, coincidentally the same day MLK was assassinated became most known.[4] This footage not only achieved its primary purpose of confirming the performance of Interstage Separation but was among the first to show the curvature of the Earth.[2]

[1][4] The camera systems were attached to the aft thrust structure of the Saturn-II (second stage); after shooting the film, the camera was ejected. It fell to the ground with parachutes.[3]

Jacobs was also one of the first black engineers hired by NASA and prime contractors.[4] After Apollo Jacobs joined the Space Shuttle program, where he served as Project Engineer responsible for Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) with included orbiter/external tank disconnect systems Umbilicals. Mr Jacobs was team leader on a proposal for continued production of ET Umbilicals (200 ship-sets) by Rockwell, which led to a promotion to Orbiter Program Office (Executive level) for the final 15 years of his 40-year aerospace career. [4]

Recognition

Jacobs was celebrated in an exhibition at the Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey, California.[6]

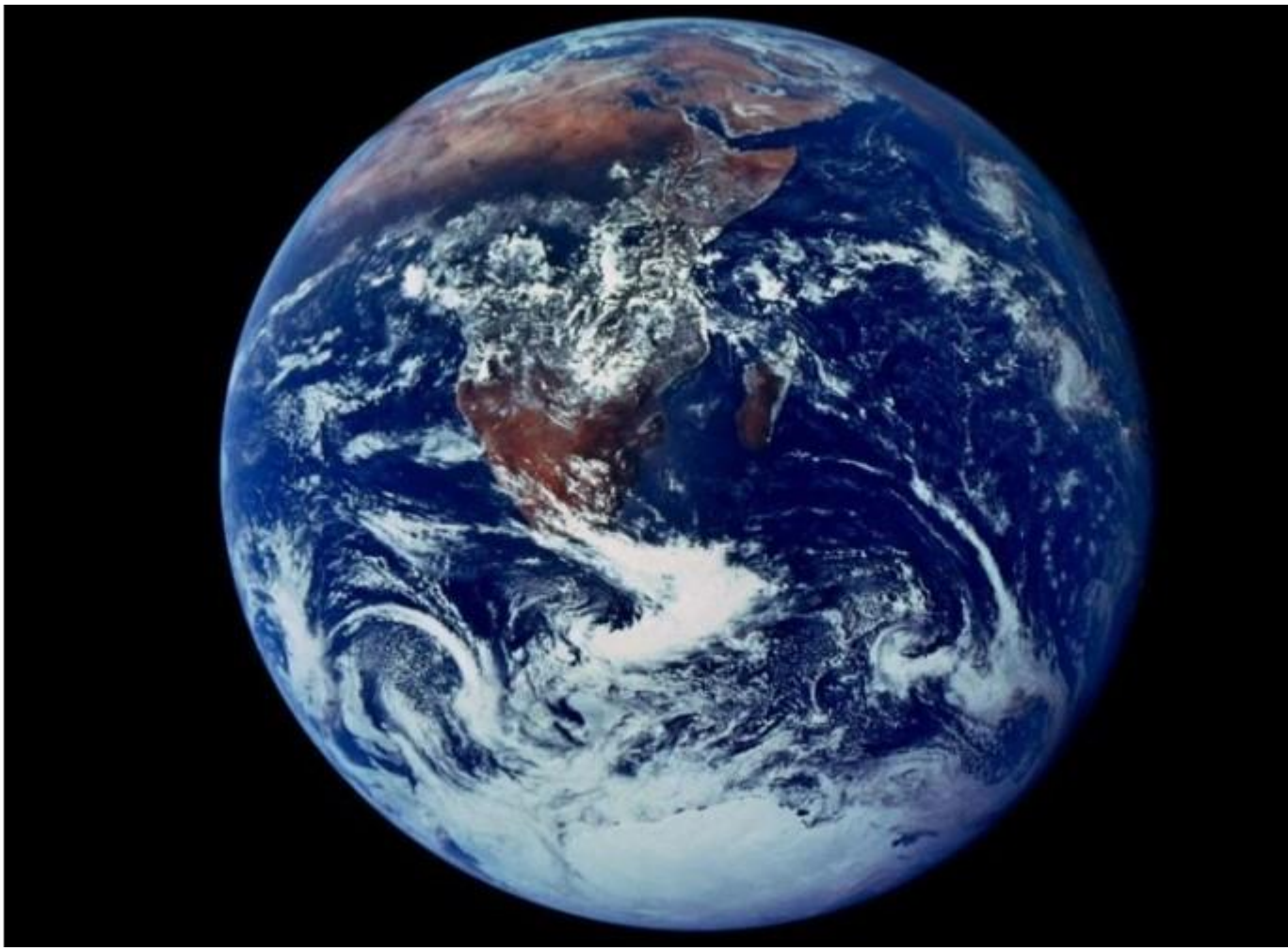
Early life and education

Jacobs was born in Texas but spent his childhood in Val Verde, California.[7] He was recognized in high school as an outstanding student, class president, and promising athlete.[8] After scoring well on an aptitute test after high school, he earned a scholarship to UCLA.[4] He attended UCLA and AVJC.[9]

Jacobs is committed to racial justice. As one of few black engineers, Jacobs faced unequal pay and unfair treatment professionally.[10] In 1965, he spent two weeks registering voters in Alabama.[2]

Shelby Jacobs - Wikipedia

The Life and Dreams of Shelby Jacobs



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Throughout 2019, organizations across America will mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo program with events, programs, and exhibitions.

The Columbia Memorial Space Center, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is hosting an exhibit that honors Shelby Jacobs, the engineer who developed the camera systems that captured amazing images during the Apollo missions, like the famous “Blue Marble” image.

The exhibit runs through Spring 2019.

Jacobs’s contribution to space exploration and his achievements revolving around work and life as an African American aerospace engineer in the 1960s is showcased in *Achieving the Impossible: The Life and Dreams of Shelby Jacobs*, a new exhibition at the Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey, California.

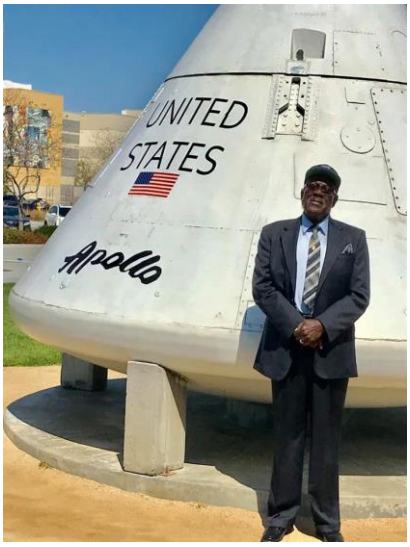
An unsung hero, Jacobs gave the world the famous “Blue Marble” image that provided definite proof that the Earth was round.

As a mechanical engineer and a project manager of the Apollo-Soyuz orbiter, Jacobs designed instrumentation that would capture one of the most repeated images in space history: the separation between the first and second stages of the Apollo 6 spacecraft in 1968.

Now on display through Spring 2019: Achieving the Impossible: The Life and Dreams of Shelby Jacobs.

The Life and Dreams of Shelby Jacobs – US Black Engineer

Rocket man: Apollo engineer a pioneer



BY PAM KRAGEN

APRIL 26, 2015 6 AM PT

OCEANSIDE —
If you were around during the era of the Apollo space program, chances are you’ve seen the handiwork of Shelby Jacobs.

The Oceanside retiree, who turns 80 on Monday, designed the camera system that in 1968 captured the famous color video of a ringlike

section of the Saturn V rocket separating from the Apollo 6 spacecraft and spinning slowly away toward Earth, 200,000 feet below.

While the achievements of the Apollo program are impressive, so are those of men like Jacobs, who NASA has hailed as one of its "unsung heroes." Jacobs was one of the first and few black engineers hired into the space program in the mid-1950s, and over a 40-year career he rose to top management positions in the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs.

"The way I characterize my career is that I went from the back of the bus to the front of the bus," he said

Apollo engineer a space, race pioneer - The San Diego Union-Tribune (sandiegouniontribune.com)

HELLO AMERICA!—It is quite exciting, I must admit, to meet someone of color who paved the way for so many extraordinary accomplishments. Shelby Jacobs is a mechanical engineer from the Apollo era. As Project Manager of the Apollo-Soyuz orbiter, Shelby designed instrumentation that would capture one of the most repeated images in space history: the separation between the first and second stages of the Apollo 6 spacecraft in 1968.

Shelby Jacobs' contribution to space exploration is a truly remarkable feat. The Space Center is honored to display his life achievements revolving around his work and personal life as an African American aerospace engineer working in the 1960s. This extraordinary man was born in Texas and later, as a youngster, the family moved to Val Verde in California during the 40s. He attended college where he was recognized as a high-rated student, voted the class president of his class, the first of his race to be recognized in such a way, especially during that period of our country. He also excelled as an athlete during those college years.

Shelby emphasized that as a youngster living during a period when those of color had to understand the reality of winning, especially when the nation was so divided indicated that those of color should enter the back door or sit in a certain section of a restaurant or theater in many parts of our country. His observance of this kind of inhumanity simply reinforced his determination to reach the mountain top of freedom. His journey of emancipation involved that of the mind; he would not waste time with meaningless social activities which so many young people were programmed into.

After so many years involved in the space program, Shelby who, by the way, is extremely, happily married to his wife, Elizabeth, still has the urge in making it possible for young people and people of color and, of course, open opportunities for more women through the doors of opportunity in the space world project.

"After all, space exploration represents our tomorrow. There are some brilliant, extremely talented people, young and old who possibly can make a contribution in space exploration and travel; doors of opportunity should be open wide enough, so they will be able to enter without any kind of interference. This is why I still have a passion for the vision of the future; I only remember what we have already accomplished involving space exploration. Yes, it is a challenge, but filled with excitement, especially when one has the knowledge of how it might affect mankind on earth."

Shelby Jacobs' contribution to space exploration is a truly remarkable feat. The Space Center is honored to display his life achievements revolving around his work and personal life as an African-American aerospace engineer working in the 1960s.

Shelby Jacobs Extraordinary Man Of Space! - Canyon News (canyon-news.com)

Black History Month: Do You Know?...Aerospace Engineer Shelby Jacobs | KTLA

A Pioneer of Aerospace……