

The Next Stage

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

AUGUST 7, 2025

Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thu each quarter)

Oct 9, 2025.

2:00 pm Faith

(NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Presbyterian Church,
SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport,
5003 Whitesburg Dr.

Dates to Remember: **2025**

Fall Breakfast: Sat, 9/6
TUMC, Served @ 0900!

Christmas Party: Sat.,
12/6, Magnolia Trace,
Act III Lounge.

Details provided closer
to date of event!

Stay tuned!

***Be sure to mark your
calendars Now. We
don't want you to miss
out on the food & fun.
More importantly...We
enjoy visiting with you!***

Contact appropriate
person if interested in
attending an event!

3rd Wed: Lunch @
Logan's/Balmoral Dr.
Email Jim Gasaway
@ djgas@att.net if
interested! Not just
an engineering
lunch...all invited!

Just let Jim know you
plan on attending, so
Logan's has appropriate
amount of food.



***If you have a
suggestion for an
event, don't hesitate
to contact a Board
member. We Like to
break bread with
good friends!***



FALL BREAKFAST AT TRINITY UMC!

Our fall breakfast will again be held at Trinity's Mission Wing room on the east side of the church **Saturday, September 6th**. Committee Chair, Ron Clements, has promised another splendid breakfast with scrambled eggs, potato casserole, biscuits, gravy, fruit, coffee, and lots of great camaraderie!

There's nothing better than a good breakfast with friends and endless coffee.

The cost is **\$7.00/person**. You have to agree that's a Bargain price these days! We need an accurate head count of expected attendees, so please have your reservations with a \$7.00 per person check to Mark Locker at HDAA, POB 267, Trinity, AL 35673-0003 by Friday, August 29, 2025. Most importantly, Ron/Alice need to know how many eggs to buy...and whether or not a Brink's van is required.

Looking forward to seeing you for breakfast!



...HDAA VIABILITY...

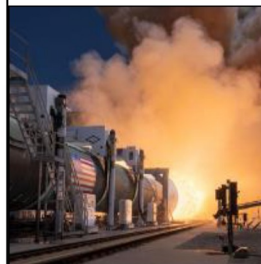
Over 30 years ago, we began this elite group with ~350 members. We Still enjoy getting together four times each year to enjoy camaraderie and good food with those same friends we had fun working with as we served our country's military branches and private industry around the globe. Over the years we have dwindled to ~70 members, but the Board has been working diligently to try and bring new/younger prior TC/HD employees, and former customers and supplier personnel (as associate members), into the HDAA so it may continue into future years. We want folks to remember what an important role the Thiokol/Huntsville Tactical Weapons Division has played in Huntsville since 1949. We may have been sold multiple times and are now a part of Northrop Grumman, but we still want to maintain our special camaraderie. *(Editor note: This is a pretty remarkable human interest story, don't you think?)*

All of that to say...Please notify us if you know someone who might like to join this fun, elite group! Contact a Board member, or jot us a note. We always love hearing from members.

Please note new address: HDAA, PO Box 267, Trinity, AL 35673-0003. Keep us posted and up-to-date on how we can reach you when a need arises. We'll do likewise. Keep in touch!

***Make yourself a priority once in a while.
It's not selfish; it's necessary!
At any given moment, you have the option
to say this is Not how it's going to end.***

Northrop Grumman Tests Most Powerful Segmented Solid Rocket Booster Ever Built



Promontory, UT, 6/26/25
NG conducted a full-scale static fire of NASA's **Booster Obsolescence and Life Extension (BOLE)** solid rocket booster. This was the first demonstration test of the enhanced 5-segment

solid rocket motor, the world's largest and most powerful segmented solid rocket motor built for human space-flight.

700+ data channels assessed the 156-foot-long solid rocket motor as it fired for just over two minutes, producing more than 4 million pounds of thrust from a single booster.

Leveraging NG's industry-leading experience in solid rocket motor manufacturing, BOLE improves on previous designs by replacing key components no longer in production. The booster features a composite case design, updated propellant formulation and advanced components to increase booster performance by more than 10% compared with the current five-segment Space Launch System (SLS) booster design.

The carbon fiber composite case enables better booster performance, faster manufacturing, and aligns with *(Continued on page 3)*

...2025 PICNIC PICTURES...



A beautiful day, great food and camaraderie with wonderful friends.

Couldn't have asked for a better event!

Shown at left are L -R: Ola Ann Lee,

Bill and Amma Barnes, Billy Martin, Betty Willis.

At right are Faye Jones, Tom Bryant and Carole (almost!), Meg McCain, Jan Kranert, and David Jones.



Above are picnic chairman, Ron Clements, Wayne McCain, Harold Whitesides, Jackie Whitesides, and Alice Clements.



Above are Lorra and Ray Zimmerman, Mark and Rhonda Locker. BTW, the flowers were given to attendees by drawing a number as each one around the table counted. *Beautiful!*



At left are Patty and Glenn Webb, and Liz Hall.

If you missed the picnic this year, it's most always on the first Saturday in June. So,

mark your calendar for next year! We don't want to miss you again!

-A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it ...

-My goal for 2024 was to lose just 10 pounds... only 15 to go!

-Just remember – Once you're over the hill, you begin to pick up speed.

Friends In The News...



It's always wonderful to know that happiness can be found again at this stage of our lives, and it definitely found it's mark in Huntsville! At right are Cecil and Kathy Clark Stokes, who were wed July 5, 2025 at the Central United Methodist Church in Decatur. Minister Dorothy Ann Webster, shown at right below, is the sister of none other than our own Jeff Jones!



Kathy Dorothy Cecil

Looks like a good time was had by all!



Kathy Dorothy Cecil



Thiokol attendees at the wedding, special friends L-R: Glenn & Patty Webb, Alice & Ron Clements.

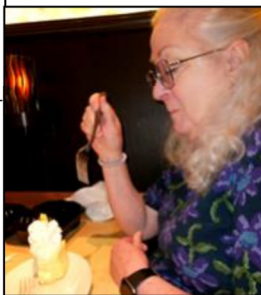
Congratulations!



At left are Misty and Gregg Bentley with granddaughter, Oaklee, who just graduated from pre-school! Bound for first grade, Oaklee is officially a Big Girl!

Congratulations, Oaklee! We can see how excited you are, too!

At right is **Murray Carroll** proudly serving our country, ca 1968. Thanks for your service, it's appreciated more than you know! *Thanks to all the Veterans who have served our great country!*



...CONCERNS...

Patti Anderson, left, just had knee surgery. *Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.*

Craig & Amy Weckwarth recently suffered through a house fire. *Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers, as well.*

NG Tests 5-segment BOLE SRB *(continued from Page 1)*

commercial standards by providing commonality among our infrastructure, supply chain, and manufacturing operations. Other aspects of the BOLE design, including metallic components, allows the company to support a U.S.-based supply chain of American manufacturers.

Compared with its predecessor, this evolved booster provides another five metric tons of payload to lunar orbit, a capability critical to supporting deep space missions.

Jim Kalberer, VP, propulsion systems, Northrop Grumman: "Today's test pushed the boundaries of large solid rocket motor design to meet rigorous performance requirements. While the motor appeared to perform well through the most harsh environments of the test, we observed an anomaly near the end of the two-plus minute burn. As a new design, and the largest segmented solid rocket booster ever built, this test provides us with valuable data to iterate our design for future developments."

Northrop Grumman supplied rocket propulsion for NASA's Apollo and Space Shuttle Programs and developed the five-segment SLS solid rocket booster based on the flight-proven design of the space shuttle boosters. The five-segment booster, BOLE's predecessor, generates 25 percent more power than its space shuttle predecessor, and provided over 75 percent of the SLS rocket's initial thrust during the Artemis I mission on November 15, 2022.

The BOLE booster development, awarded in 2017, represents a significant step towards more sustainable commercial practices and incorporates commonality in design and construction standards from across all of Northrop Grumman's production programs.

(Excerpt from NG news release re BOLE, dated 6/26/25)

WAYS TO BE

(a short list):

*Be broken. Be healed.
Be goofy. Be real.
Be open. Be growing.
Be grumpy. Be glowing.
Be peaceful. Be stormy.
Be weird. Be a normie.
Be mighty. Be tired.
Be strong. Be inspired.
Be thoughtful. Be thriving.
Be singing while driving.
Be busy. Be resting.
Be blessed. Be a blessing.
Be near or be far.
BE JUST AS YOU ARE!*

-Hallmark®

*(FYI...Yes, Editor got permission to reprint.
LM and DGW taught me that lesson decades ago!)*

NG Completes Delivery for Integrated Battle Command System

Huntsville, Ala. – July 30, 2025 – Northrop Grumman Corporation has successfully completed delivery of major end items (MEIs) for the U.S. Army's Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP)

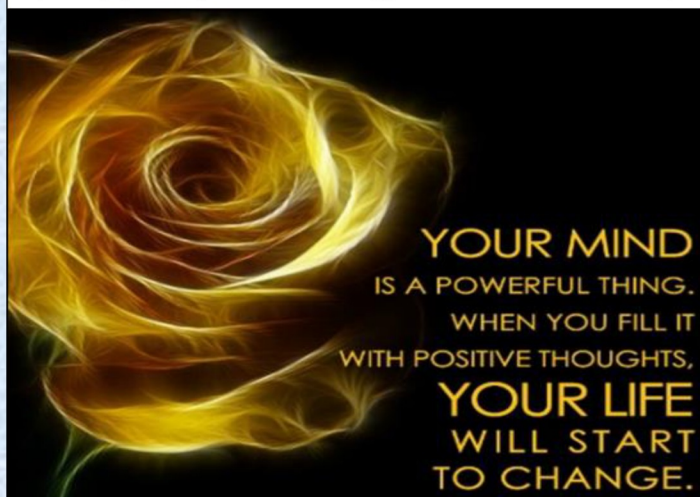
contract for the Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS), the Army's program of record for integrated air and missile defense. This milestone marks a crucial advancement in next-generation air-and-missile defense technology and demonstrates the system's ready-now capabilities.

During the LRIP program phase, Northrop Grumman manufactured IBCS at scale and speed, successfully delivering all MEIs under LRIP, allowing the U.S. Army to accelerate the fielding process. This milestone follows last year's delivery of the first full set of IBCS MEIs. Under the LRIP contract, Northrop Grumman produced and delivered 142 MEIs: 35 Engagement Operations Centers (EOC), 32 Integrated Fire Control Network (IFCN) Relays and 75 Integrated Collaborative Environments (ICE) from our manufacturing facility in Huntsville, Alabama.

As a trusted innovator with a legacy of disruption, Northrop Grumman will now begin manufacturing IBCS under our full-rate production contract with the U.S. Army at our state-of-the-art integration center in Madison, Alabama. The new Enhanced Production and Integration Center (EPIC) builds on our ability to scale and accelerate production of critical capabilities, while expanding capacity for high-rate manufacturing programs.

IBCS is a revolutionary command and control system that unifies current and future systems regardless of source, service or domain. Through its network enabled, modular, open and scalable architecture, IBCS fuses sensor data for a single, actionable picture of the full battlespace. This ready-now capability gives warfighters more time to assess and respond to threats, serving as a foundational element for enabling joint and coalition, multi-domain operations IBCS is in production and will be fielded as part of the U.S. Army's program of record for integrated air and missile defense modernization.

(Excerpt from <https://news.northropgrumman.com/ibcs...>, 7/30/25)



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The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 267
Trinity, AL 35673-0003

Place
Stamp
Here

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2025 WERE DUE 1/1/25.

*IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE CONSIDER
DOING SO. IT HELPS KEEP US SOLVENT. THANKS!.*

9/1—Labor Day
9/11—Patriot Day
9/11—POW/MIA Recognition Day



Label Here

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AUGUST 7, 2025

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 70. Editor: Patti Wilson. Its address is HDAA, POB 267; Trinity, AL; 35673-0003.

The 2025 HDAA Board consists of :
President/Wayne McCain, VP/Terry Dillard, Secretary/Cecil Stokes, Treasurer -Membership/Mark Locker. Directors:
(25) Bill Barnes, Tom Bryant, Ron Clements, Jan Kranert, Hermann Miskelly, Ray Zimmerman, Mark Locker; (26) Bill Barnes, Ron Clements, Paul Fisher, Jim Gasaway, Ray Zimmerman.

Ex-officio members of the Board: Historian (vacant) and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

Please join us at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 6th, breakfast served at 09:00! Love to see you.

...Bring a hearty appetite...



In Fond Memory...

We join the families in mourning the loss of family, friends and prior coworkers:

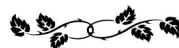
Carroll Bobb: Quality Manager and UT PM, and husband of Marie Kennamar Thomas Bobb, executive secretary in 7650.

Leo Drake: Who worked in Materiel, Stores and Distribution.

Susan Elmore Moore: Who worked in Publications as a clerk and photographer, and wife of Barry Moore who worked In R&D Development Section.

Billy Sorter: Who worked in Manufacturing, and husband of Dianne, who worked in Program Management.

Charles E Thomas (Charlie): Who worked as a Contract Administrator, and served on our HDAA Board as Treasurer/Membership Chairman for 13 years.



They will be sorely missed by us all, since they truly touched our lives.



*Precious AK McCauley
enjoying the frantic
humor of infants!*

*Grow up too fast,
don't they? But, always
precious!*

