



JON ANDREW McBRIDE, Capt. USN (Ret.)
"Big Jon"

Hometown: Beckley, WV.

Education: Woodrow Wilson H/S 1960; WVU 1964; NPGS 1971.

Commissioning Source: WVU ROTC, June 1964.

Date of Designation: August 1966

Dates of Active Duty: 1964-1989

Total Flight Hours: 8800

Carrier/Ship Landings: 600+

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet (4800) Prop (2000) VT (120) Helo (20) NASA (2000)

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF 103, USS *Saratoga*, May 1972-January 1973, Gulf of Tonkin, (F-4)

Total Combat Missions: 64 (F-4)

Aviation Commands:

OIC, Key West Fighter Detachments, 1974 (F-4)

Awards:

Legion of Merit

Defense Superior Service Medal

Strike/Flight Air Medals (3)

Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V"

Navy Unit Commendation

National Defense Service Medal,

Vietnam Service Medal

NASA Space Flight Medal



Aircraft Flown:

"Tiger Moth" (WWI), AN-2 (Russian), T-34 A/B, T-2A/B/C, C-45, A/TF-9J, T-1A, RF-4, F-4B/J/N/S, TA-4F, UC-45J, T-33, C1-A, US-2B, T-38A, F-8J, NKC-135A, C-131B, B-17, B-24, B-25, B-26, OH-58A, C-141A, A-7D, C131B, Blanik L-13 (Glider)/Schweitzer 126 (Glider), A-37A, B-35 (Bonanza), F-101A, T-43, Boeing 727/737/747, KC-130H, UH-1N, H-34, A-23 (Musketeer), G-2 Gulfstream Shuttle Training Aircraft, Cessna 172, Cessna 310 (personal A/C), Space Shuttle "Challenger"

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 01/65-08/66 Navy Flight Training, Pensacola/Kingsville (T-34, T-28, F-9/11).
- 09/66-01/67 VF-101, F-4 RAG, NAS Oceana (F-4).
- 01/67-12/69 VF-41 - Sqdn Pilot/DivO (F-4).
- 01/70-12/71 USNPGS (BS Aeronautical Engineering).
- 01/72-12/74 VF-11/VF-103 USS *Saratoga*, Gulf of Tonkin (F-4).
- 01/75-12/75 Attended US Air Force Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, CA.
- 01/76-12/77 VX-4, Point Mugu, CA, Maintenance Officer and Sidewinder Project Officer (F-4).
- 01/78-08/89 Selected in first class for Space Shuttle Astronaut training. Completed training 8/79. Flew as "lead chase pilot" for first Shuttle flight ("Columbia") 4/81. Flew as pilot on 9-day mission in STS-41G "Challenger" 10/84. Scheduled to command STS-61E in 3/86 but cancelled due to "Challenger" tragedy. Served as NASA Assistant Administrator in charge of Congressional Relations from 07/87-08/89.
- 9/89 Retired from Active Duty

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) As project officer for the AIM-9L "Sidewinder" air to air missile, fired first 10 missiles from head-on, abeam, and stern aspects and had direct hits with all 10.
- (2) Piloted "Spirit of '76" red, white and blue F-4J Phantom in various airshows across America in 1976.
- (3) Selected to first class of Space Shuttle Astronauts.
- (4) Was "lead chase pilot" for first flight of Space Shuttle "Columbia" and developed, executed history's most challenging rendezvous.
- (5) Pilot of STS-41G ("Challenger") on 9-day voyage with crew of 7 including first crew of two women, first Canadian and first West Virginian.
- (6) During "down time" following "Challenger" tragedy, led the development of Space Shuttle rendezvous techniques for joining with another orbiting platform. Flew more than 100 rendezvous simulations.
- (7) Served as NASA Assistant Administrator in charge of Congressional Relations.

(4) Cochairman, American Cancer Society fund raising (WV – 1990); Executive Committee, BSA; Spokesperson for March of Dimes; American Red Cross Disaster Relief; Shawnee Hills Mental Health Group.

(5) Member of Executive Committee, Association of Space Explorers (Co-President 1995-1996); President, Association of Space Explorers (USA) (1997-1998).

(6) Recipient of WV Sec States "State Medallion" and appointed "WV Ambassador of Good Will Among All Men" (1980); received Honorary Doctorate in Aerospace Engineering from Salem University (1984); Honorary Doctorate of Science from WVU (1985); Honorary Doctorate of Science from University of Charleston (1987); Honorary Doctorate of Science from West Virginia Institute of Technology (1987).

(7) West Virginia Society's "Son of the Year" (1988); City of Beckley, WV "Hall of Fame"; Distinguished Alumni WVU (1988); WV's "Honorary Italian-American (1988); Kanawha County West Virginia's "Famous Person Award" (1988); WV Broadcaster's "Man of the Year" (1989); City of Hope's "Spirit of Life Award" (1991); DAR "Medal of Honor" (1993).

Summary of Post Active Duty Activity

- (1) 1989-2001 Manager of Venture Capital funds.
- (2) 2001-2005 Lead project to purchase/refurb/ferry and operate a 13 plane Sqdn of A-4Ns from Israel to Mesa, AZ. All aircraft still in operation.
- (3) 2005 – present VP of Astronaut Education Programs at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, KSC, FL. Managed the "Astronaut Encounter. Fly with an Astronaut" and all other related activities with 40 Astronauts involved in the program.

Personal

- (1) Has three children (one deceased Active Duty U.S. Navy). Recreational interests include flying, basketball, golf, softball, racquetball, gourmet cooking, numismatics, gardening, and carpentry.

Association/Membership Boards/Special Honors

- (1) Member of ANA; VFW; American Legion; SETP.
- (2) Life member of Phi Delta Theta; National Honor Society; the Golden Key National Honor Society.
- (3) Member of the WV University Engineering Visiting Committee (Chairman 1990-1992) and member of the University System of WV Board of Trustees (1992-1995).