



Inventory of the Ronald McNair Collections, Box #3

Contact Information

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Descriptive Summary

Repository

F. D. Bluford Library Archives & Special Collections

Creator

Ronald McNair

Title

Ronald McNair Box #3

Language of Materials

English

Extent

1 archival boxes, 97 items

Abstract

Born Ronald Erwin McNair on October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. In 1971, he received a bachelor of science in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University. He received a doctor of philosophy in Physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. He was presented with an honorary doctorate of Laws from NC A&T State University in 1978 and an honorary doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980. He flew on a Challenger mission in February 1984. He died January 28, 1986, one of the astronauts in the Challenger disaster.

The collection contains newspaper articles, recognition programs and other papers relevant to his life, both shuttle flights, and the years following the Challenger disaster in 1986.

Administrative Information

Restrictions to Access

No Restrictions

Acquisitions Information

Transferred from the Office of the Chancellor. Please consult Archives Staff for additional information.

Processing Information

Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

Dr. Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986) was a native of Lake City, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina A&T State University and earned a degree in physics in 1971. He majored in music for a week before deciding to pursue his degree in physics. He obtained his Ph.D in laser physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1976 and began a career as a research scientist. Dr. McNair applied for and was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in January 1978. He maintained a relationship with A&T, visiting and giving speeches inspiring future generations to pursue careers in the sciences.

On February 3, 1984, Dr. McNair made his first trip into space as a mission specialist on the space shuttle Challenger. He was the second African-American to go to space.

On January 28, 1986, he was on board the Challenger for his second trip when the space shuttle disintegrated just over a minute into its flight. Also lost were Ellison Onizuka, school teacher Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, Judith Resnik, Michael J. Smith, and Francis "Dick" Scobee. Smith was a native of Beaufort, North Carolina.

McNair was also an accomplished jazz saxophonist and taught karate in which he held a black belt. Before his last mission he had worked with composer Jean Michael Jarre on a piece of music. It had been intended that McNair would record his saxophone solo on board the shuttle which would have been the first original music recorded in space. The piece now has the name of "Ron's piece".

He was married to Cheryl Moore and had two children, Reginald and Joy.

In 1987, the newly built engineering building at A&T University was dedicated and named Ronald E. McNair Hall. MIT named the building for astrophysics and space research after McNair. The U.S. Department of Education offers the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program for students with low income, first generation students, and/or under represented students in graduate education for doctorate education.

Collection Overview

Container List

- 3.1 Join North Carolina A&T State University in a Mammoth "Welcome Home" Celebration for Dr. Ron McNair. Flyer. Pictured: Ronald McNair. 1984. 2 copies.
- 3.2 Autograph from Ron McNair to Glenda. "Welcome Home" Ceremony for Dr. Ronald McNair. Program. NC A&T State University. March 30, 1984.

Un-autographed copy of program.
- 3.3 Astronaut loves challenge. By Bernadette Hearne. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 22, 1984.
- 3.4 McNair to be honored. Peacemaker. March 24, 1984.
- 3.5 Aggie joy will ride in space with alumnus Ron McNair. By Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Record. February 2, 1984.

- 3.6 Shuttle makes 1st landing at home port. By Harry F. Rosenthal. Greensboro Daily News & Record. February 12, 1984. 2 copies.
- 3.7 'Buck Rogers flight' launch set today. Greensboro Daily News. February 3, 1984. 2 copies.
A&T pride to rise with shuttle's liftoff. By Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Ronald McNair. 1 copy.
- 3.8 'Cecil B.' McNair mans space camera. Greensboro Record. February 8, 1984.
- 3.9 Ronald McNair biographical information. No publication. No date.
- 3.10 Black & White photograph. No date.
- 3.11 Where Students Learn To Soar. By Nancy Bearden Henderson. Pictured: June Scobee Rodgers, Greg Tiner, Elizabeth McDonald. Parade. January 28, 2001.
- 3.12 White House letter from Ronald Reagan. January 31, 186.
- 3.13 Indonesia's satellite also goes off track. Greensboro Daily News. February 7, 1984.
- 3.14 Shuttle Returns today. Greensboro Daily News. February 11, 1984.
- 3.15 Spacewalk today; experts study misfires. No paper. February 9, 1984.
- 3.16 McNair's hometown notes achievements. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. February 4, 1986.
- 3.17 Astronauts take first unrestrained space walk. Greensboro daily news. February 8, 1984.
- 3.18 McNair to star in Shuttle today with experiments. By Bernadette Hearne. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Daily News. February 8, 1984.
- 3.19 "The Occasion" speech. By Dr. Donald Edwards. From "Welcome Home" Celebration. 1984.
- 3.20 Invitation to dedication of the Ronald E. McNair Building at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 1986.
- Program book for Massachusetts Institute of Technology dedication of Ronald E. McNair Building.
- Energy Storage and Vibrational Heating in CH₃F Following Intense Laser Excitation. By Ronald McNair, S. Fulghum, G.W. Flynn, M.S. Feld, and BJ Feldman. Chemical Physics Letters. Vol 8, No. 2. June 1, 1977.
- 3.21 Department of Physics' First Annual Ronald E. McNair Lecture Series. Lecture 1: Food Microbiology Research at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia by Dr. Mogessie Ashenafi. Flyer. NC A&T State University. 2001.
- 3.22 Space Travel Not Imminent For A&T Grad. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Daily News. March 27, 1980. 2 copies.
- 3.23 Paying tribute to A&T's astronaut, Ron McNair. News & Record. January 27, 2001.
- 3.24 A Proud Family, An Inspired Hometown. By Marilyn Mather. Charlotte Observer. January 31, 1984.

- 3.25 Biographical Data: Ronald E. McNair (PH.D.) NASA Astronaut (Deceased). Pictured: Ronald McNair. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. December 2003.
- 3.26 McNair's death stuns A&T students, town. By Don Patterson and Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Dr. Ronald McNair. Pictured: Jonathon Hampton, Sai S. Vallabha, William Humphrey, Sailaja Vallabha. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 3.27 Friends will try to think of the good times with McNair. By Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 28, 1987.
- 3.28 When you look for a hero, look no further than astronaut Ron McNair. By Gilbert Casterlow. Pictured: Dr. Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 28, 1998.
N.C. A&T honors fallen astronaut. News & Record. January 25, 1998.
- 3.29 Flight 41-B. Untethered Spacewalks Highlight Tenth Mission. NASA Facts. Pictured: Vance Brand, Robert "Hoot" Gibson, Bruce McCandless, Ronald McNair, Robert Spencer. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. No date.
- 3.30 Final Plans: A&T Space Shuttle Trip, Feb. 1-5, 1984. Proposed Agenda. NC A&T State University. January 1984.
- 3.31 North Carolina A&T State University Presents The 12th Annual Commemorative Memorial Program Honoring The Late Dr. Ronald E. McNair. Flyer. Pictured: Ronald McNair. January 28, 1998.
- 3.32 Loss of signals makes satellite space casualty. By Harry F. Rosenthal. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. February 4, 1984.
- 3.33 McNair Program Welcomes You. Newsletter. Students Support Services. NC A&T State University. July 27, 1998.
- 3.34 STS-41B Mission Report. Space World. April 1984.
- 3.35 Letter from Ron McNair to Sadie Smith, F.D. Bluford Library. September 19, 1979.
- 3.36 MISSING.
- 3.37 DUPLICATE: Moved to 3.7.
- 3.38 A mission remembered. Pictured: Michael Massimino, Bernard Westbrook, from 12th anniversary of Challenger disaster. Photograph by Scott Hoffmann. News & Record. January 29, 1998.
- 3.39 A&T hero remembered: Cheryl McNair, Kelli Pass-Morgan. Photograph by Scott Hoffmann. Black & White and Color versions. News & Record. January 29, 1991.
- 3.40 'Flash and Buck' chart course to repairs in space. Greensboro Record. February 10, 1984.
- 3.41 Program honors late astronaut Ronald McNair. Register. January 28, 2002. 2 copies.
- 3.42 Shuttle Mission 41-B – Pictorial Highlights. Cover, pages 1-6. NASA Activities. Volume 15, No. 3. March 1984.

- 3.43 Astronauts hold last drill under clean countdown. Pictured: Judith Resnick. Greensboro Record. February 2, 1984.
- 3.44 Black astronaut gets school post. Greensboro Record. February 18, 1981.
- 3.45 North Carolina A&T Student Creates Mural Illustrating Astronaut's Life. The Chronicle of Higher Education. March 12, 1999. Printed from online July 23, 2000.
- 3.46 Hero, A&T praised at dedication. Bust of McNair shares spotlight with building. By Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Cheryl, Joy, Reggie McNair. Photograph by Debra Reid. News & Record. June 13, 1987.
- 3.47 Photograph of painting of Space Shuttle. Color. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. 1979.
- 3.48 Black and White photograph of Ronald McNair and William Perry in karate garb. Copy. Circa 1970s.
- 3.49 A&T's dedication of new hall for McNair angers brothers. By Jim Schlosser. News & Record. June 13, 1987. 2 copies.
- 3.50 Letter from Raymond R. Corey, NASA, to teachers. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Circa 1979.
- Major NASA Launchings. Poster. October 1, 1958 – December 31, 1978.
- 3.51 Ronald McNair biographical information and photograph. Also included from the Challenger astronauts Judith Resnik and Ellison Onizuka. NASA Activities. February 1979.
- 3.52 A Commemorative Memorial Program Honoring Dr. Ronald E. McNair. Program. Pictured: Ronald McNair. NC A&T State University. January 27, 1989.
- 3.53 Letter from Chancellor Edward B. Fort to faculty, administrators and staff of North Carolina A&T State University in regards to the first In Memoriam of Dr. Ronald McNair. NC A&T State University. January 29, 1986.
- 3.54 Space Log 1984. By Mike Livingston. The State. Columbia, SC. January 29, 1984.
- 3.55 American hero. Pictured: Cicely Tyson. Pictured: Cheryl McNair, Reginald McNair, Pearl McNair. Incomplete, missing 1st page of article. News & Record. May 18, 1986.
- 3.56 School's enthusiasm still high for space program. By Lawrence Spohn. News & Record. June 8, 1986.
- 3.57 "A&T will sponsor a commemorative celebration and national research symposium..." Pictured: Carl McNair. News & Record. January 22, 2006.
- 3.58 Seven Lives: The Last Crew of the Challenger. By Dudley Clendinen. Pictured: Ronald, Cheryl, Reginald, Joy McNair. Pictured: Ronald, Carl, and Eric McNair; Mabel Montgomery, Debra Austin Graham. New York Times. February 9, 1986.
- 3.59 NCA&TSU names Green director of McNair Program. Carolina Peacemaker. February 13 – 19, 2003.
- 3.60 Shuttle wreckage searchers focusing on the ocean floor. Pictured: Carl McNair (father of Ronald McNair). News & Record. February 4, 1986.

- 3.61 Ceremonies will honor the crew of the Challenger. By Mary MacVean. Pictured: Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Christie McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, Judith Resnik. News & Record. January 28, 1987. 2 copies.
- 3.62 Friends will try to think of the good times with McNair. By Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 28, 1987. 2 copies.
- 3.63 Contest Marks Astronaut's Flight. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Carolina Peacemaker. December 24, 1983.
- 3.64 Astronaut Selection and Training. NASA Fact Sheet. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. June 1979.
- 3.65 Auto Body-shop Dad Sky High on Astro Son. By Paul Tharp. New York Post. February 6, 1984.
- 3.66 Sculpture will honor McNair. By Mark McDonald. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Pictured: Janos Farkas. Photograph by Rob Brown. News & Record. May 22, 1986.
- 3.67 Ron McNair Day card. March 30, 1984.
- 3.68 Spartan Halley Mission. Pictured: Richard Scobee, Michael Smith, Ronald McNair, Judy Resnik, Ellison Onizuka. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Circa 1986.
- 3.69 A&T to honor McNair with commemorative breakfast. A&T Register. January 22, 2004.
- 3.70 Pictured: Ronald McNair, Reggie McNair from 1984. No paper. February 1, 1986.
- 3.71 A&T to hold annual breakfast on Jan. 30. News & Record. January 19, 2004.
- 3.72 A&T recalls life of its own shuttle victim. By Donald W. Patterson. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. February 2, 2003.
- 3.73 A&T honors Ron McNair with homecoming tributes. By Bernadette Hearne. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Photograph by Joseph Rodriguez. News & Record. March 30, 1984.
- 3.74 Profiles in Black History: Ron McNair. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. February 2, 2004. Color and black and white copies.
- 3.75 Biographical Data: Dr. Ronald E. McNair. No publication. No date.
- 3.76 A&T tribute for McNair to be Friday. By Donald W. Patterson and Jim Schlosser. Greensboro News & Record. Afternoon, January 29, 1986.
- 3.77 Dr. Ronald E. McNair's Accomplishments and Honors. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Ron McNair Committee. No date.
- 3.78 Chairmen announced. Pictured: Dr. James E. Hyman, T. R. Cooper named co-chairmen of the Ron McNair Memorial Scholarship drive in Lake City. Photograph by Bonnie Blackburn. Florence Morning News. Florence, SC. July 25, 1989.
- 3.79 Challenger astronaut McNair to be buried. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. May 12, 1986.
- 3.80 The Unveiling Ceremony of the statue of Ronald E. McNair. Program. NC A&T State University. June 12, 1987.

- 3.81 Dr. Ronald E. McNair. Biographical information. Source only listed as ROTC 1984.
- 3.82 Scholarship Presented. Pictured: K.G "Rusty" Smith, Jr., Lucretia Scott. Photograph by Linda Norris. The Lake City News & Post. Lake City, SC. August 3, 1989.
- 3.83 The future belongs to the brave. By Susan Ladd. Pictured: Cheryl McNair. Photograph by Debra Reid. News & Record. June 13, 1987. 2 copies.
- 3.84 A&T graduate McNair to get honor with his special day on March 30. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Record. March 7, 1984.
- 3.85 Photograph of Cheryl McNair and children Joy and Reginald. Black & White. No date.
- 3.86 Humphries to Speak at McNair Celebration. Pictured: Dr. Frederick Humphries. Aggie Report. NC A&T State University. January 23, 2004.
- 3.87 McNair to star in Shuttle today with experiments. By Bernadette Hearne. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Daily News. February 8, 1984.
- 3.88 Flyer with schedule for bus trip to Kennedy Space Center for January 29, 1984 launch of the Challenger. NC A&T State University. 1984. 2 copies.
- 3.89 Photograph and artist rendering of Saturn. Color. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Circa 1979.
- 3.90 NASA Teacher in Space Project Information. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. November 5, 1985.
- 3.91 Cameras scan ocean floor for shuttle debris. News & Record. February 4, 1986.
- 3.92 3,500 memorialize McNair. By Jim Schlosser. News & Record. January 29, 1986. 4 copies.
- 3.93 Current disperses wreckage. Pictured: Willie Davis. Pictured: Charles F. Bolden, Reginald McNair. No paper. Circa February 1986.
- 3.94 Shuttle blast kills all seven. By Peter H. King. News & Record. January 29, 1986. 4 copies.
- 3.95 Community invited: McNair memorial service today. By Robert C. Di Iorio. Incomplete. No paper. February 1986.
- 3.96 Letter to Dr. Richard Moore from Chancellor Edward B. Fort. Regarding material for McNair files. February 14, 1986.
- Seven Stars are Born. By Adalina Cabral. Essay for Medford Daily Mercury. January 28, 1986.
- 3.97 "Chix in Space". Experiment description. No date.
- 3.98 Ronald McNair was a man 'destined to be famous'. By Richard E. Moore. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 31, 1986. 7 copies.
- 3.99 Broken Sky: For Ron McNair. Poem by Hal Sieber. Carolina Peacemaker. February 22, 2001.