



Inventory of the Ronald McNair Collection, Box #4

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Descriptive Summary

Repository

F. D. Bluford Library Archives & Special Collections

Creator

McNair, Ronald

Title

Ronald McNair Box #4

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. This collection also contains releases, articles and publications from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) relating directly to Ronald McNair and indirectly covering various areas and aspects of space exploration in the 1970s and early 1980s.

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

Collection processed by Edward Lee Love, 2017

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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

- 4.1 N.C. A&T Students Watch As Shuttle Stalls With Projects. By Hunter T. George II. McDowell News. Marion, NC. August 19, 1994.
- 4.2 A Memorial Tribute To Dr. Ronald McNair "A Great Aggie". Agenda. NC A&T State University. January 31, 1986.
- 4.3 Dr. Ronald E. McNair Clippings' File. Archives.
- 4.4 'World-class' building to carry hero's name. By Donald W. Patterson. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. June 11, 1987.
- 4.5 The 21st Annual Ronald E. McNair Commemorative Celebration and 6th National Research Symposium. Pictured: Mug shots of Carl S. McNair, Dr. Johnetta Cole, Dr. Glenn B. Lang, Dr.

- Harold Martin. NC A&T State University Advertising Supplement to News & Record. December 31, 2006.
- 4.6 Remembering Dr. Ronald E. McNair. By Dr. Gilbert Casterlow Jr. Carolina Peacemaker. February 1, 2007.
- 4.7 A&T celebrates life of alumnus McNair. Pictured: Mugshots of Dr. Johnetta Cole, Carl S. McNair. Dr. Harold Martin. Carolina Peacemaker. January 18, 2007. 2 copies.
- 4.8 McNair's words, legacy encourage students. By Tom Gilmore. Letter to the editor. News & Record. June 23, 2007.
- 4.9 Seven Lives/The Last Crew of the Challenger. Two Paths to the Stars: Turnings and Triumphs. Ronald McNair by Dudley Clendinen and Judith Resnik by Elizabeth Kolbert. Incomplete. New York Times. February 9, 1986.
- NASA had warning of a disaster risk posed by booster. By Philip M. Boffey. Incomplete New York Times. February 9, 1986.
- 4.10 Honors for McNair. By Donald Edwards. Letter to the editor. News & Record. January 22, 1991.
- 4.11 McNair buried at home. By Stan Swofford. Incomplete. News & Record. May 18, 1986.
- 4.12 Distinguished alumni of N.C. A&T State University: Ronald McNair. 1950-1986. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 20, 1991.
- 4.13 Ron McNair 'was always a dreamer'. By Margaret L. Knox. Pictured: Ronald and Reginald McNair. The Atlanta Journal and Constitution. February 1, 1986.
- 4.14 Newspaper photograph. Pictured: Ronald and Reginald McNair. The Atlanta Journal and Constitution. February 1, 1986.
- 4.15 Speech covering space flight. Missing page 1. No source (Ronald McNair?). No date.
- Pictured: Ronald McNair. Single page from A&T document, otherwise no publication information. Circa 1980.
- Flight and mission objectives for 1984 flight of Challenger, flight 41-B. Incomplete. No publication information. Presumably from National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Circa 1984. McNair to be honored. Peacemaker. March 24, 1984.
- 4.16 Text to story covering Ronald McNair's memorial service. By Richard E. Moore. Circa 1986.
- 4.17 Letter to Members of the Press from Dr. Richard E. Moore regarding A&T State University sponsoring a Memorial Tribute in honor of Ronald McNair. January 29, 1986.
- 4.18 Newspaper photograph. Pictured: Students Jonathon Hampton, Sai S. Vallabha, William Humphrey and Sailaja Vallabha. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 4.19 Commemoration. Pictured: Kenneth Burton, an N.C. A&T State University student addresses a crowd gathered at the school Sunday to honor astronaut Ronald E. McNair. Photograph by John Page. News & Record. Circa 1986.
- 4.20 Astronaut Urges Diversity In Space, Science. Pictured: Dr. Mae Jemison. Pictured Cheryl McNair. Peacemaker. January 31 - February 6, 1991.

- 4.21 Highlights of His Life. Biographical information of Ronald McNair. No publication. No date.
- 4.22 Shuttle blast kills all seven aboard. By Peter H. King. January 29, 1986. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 4.23 Crew represented U.S. 'at her best'. By Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Reverend Jesse Jackson. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. Circa 1986.
- 4.24 Hero, A&T praised at dedication: Bust of McNair shares spotlight with building. By Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Cheryl McNair, Joy and Reggie McNair. Photograph by Debra Reid. News & Record. June 13, 1987.
- 4.25 McNair's death stuns A&T students, town. By Don Patterson and Jim Schlosser. Pictured: Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Christie McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, Judith Resnik. Pictured: Dr. Ron McNair. News & Record. No date. Circa 1986,
- 4.26 A&T graduate is riding high over shuttle trip. By Blanche Robinson. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Record. February 11, 1983.
- 4.27 Astro's widow thanks 'caring world'. By Regina Boyd. Pictured: Cheryl McNair, Pearl McNair. Photograph by Barry Chin. The Boston Herald. February 13, 1986.
- 4.28 A Tribute to Dr. Ronald McNair. Poem by Ivy Allen-Hutton. The Jamaican Star. February 3, 1986.
It's McNair's day. Tech Talk. Volume 28, No. 31. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. April 25, 1984.
- 4.29 A Wreath in Memoriam. The late Dr. Ron McNair's family (above) visited his alma mater, A&T, this week to help the university community pay respects to the pioneer astronaut. Newspaper photograph by Otis Hairston, Jr. Carolina Peacemaker. January 30-February 5, 1992.
- 4.30 Space Shuttle Special. Modern Age Publications. February 3-February 11, 1984.
- 4.31 STS11. Covers upcoming 1984 Shuttle mission. 8x11 brochure. Pictured: Challenger crew: Vance D. Brand, Robert L. Gibson, Ronald E. McNair, Bruce McCandless, Robert L. Stewart. Rockwell International, Space Transportation & Systems Group. Circa 1984.
Midnight on the Pad. Color photograph of Shuttle. Artist not provided. Martin Marietta, Michoud Division. Circa 1984.
- 4.32 America's Space Port. John F. Kennedy Space Center. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Circa 1982-83.
- 4.33 Janos Farkas: Sculptor's time may be yet to come. By Jim Schlosser. News and Record. March 5, 1994.
- 4.34 Science & Politics: Black astronaut speaks out. McNair has a wider perspective of his role; friends suggest future in office. By Steve Curwood. Pictured: Ron McNair. Incomplete. The Boston Globe. No date.
- 4.35 McNair recalled as wanting to unfold mysteries of space. Pictured: Cheryl McNair, Reginald McNair. News & Observer. February 3, 1986.
- 4.36 Shuttle Repairs Outlined. By Walter Pincus and Michael Isikoff. Partially clipped. News & Record. March 12, 1986.

- 4.37 Cameras scan ocean floor for shuttle debris. News & Record. February 4, 1986.
- 4.38 Journalist flight probably not scrapped. News & Record. January 29, 1986.
- 4.39 A&T to honor McNair. Pictured: Dr. Sylvester James Gates, Jr. The Chronicle. January 13, 2005.
- 4.40 Sandra Govan takes over as coordinator of McNair program at UNCG. Pictured: Sandra Govan. No paper. No date.
- 4.41 Firm awards A&T a \$200,000 grant. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. May 16, 1986. 3 copies.
- 4.42 Sharing McNair's success. Greensboro Record. February 3, 1984.
- 4.43 The Aggie astronaut. Greensboro Daily News February 3, 1984.
- 4.44 For the McNairs, 'what if?' lingers. By Jim Schlosser. News & Record. November 13, 1986.
- 4.45 A&T Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program Recruiting Students. Carolina Times. August 23, 2003.
- 4.46 Divers find Challenger crew cabin. By William J. Broad. News & Record. March 10, 1986.
- 4.47 Where Students Learn To Soar. By Nancy Bearden Henderson. Pictured: June Scobee Rodgers, Greg Tiner, Elizabeth McDonald. Parade. January 28, 2001.
- 4.48 Failed launch disappoints A&T group. By Stan Swoffard. News & Record. August 19, 1994.
- 4.49 Paying tribute to A&T's astronaut, Ron McNair. News & Record. January 27, 2001.
- 4.50 Christabelle Mclean in McNair program. Pictured: Christabelle McLean. Review. Benson, NC. August 10, 1994.
- 4.51 McNair's hometown notes achievements. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. February 4, 1986.
- 4.52 S.C. museum officials, 12-year-old develop Ron McNair memorial. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. March 5, 1986.
- 4.53 Building for an astronaut. News & Record. June 13, 1987.
- 4.54 NCA&TSU names Green director of McNair program. Peacemaker. February 13, 2003.
- 4.55 The Ronald E. McNair Engineering Building Dedicated at A&T. The Carolina Times. June 20, 1987.
- 4.56 Mrs. Cheryl McNair presents a laminated patch to Dr. Edward B. Fort. Newspaper photograph. Carolina Times. June 20, 1987.
- 4.57 Congressmen plan review; unlikely to cancel program. Pictured: Ronald Reagan, Senator John Glenn. Boston Herald. Circa 1986.
- NASA pays the bill, but 4 private firms monitor the program. By David Satterfield. Boston Herald. Circa 1986.
- 4.58 Dignitaries, A&T Students Honor McNair. By Rob Stevenson. Pictured: Jesse Jackson. Winston-Salem Journal. February 1, 1986.

- 4.59 Students leave for high adventure. Two chartered buses of NC A&T students leave for Cape Canaveral. Newspaper photograph. Photograph by Dave Nicholson. News & Record.
- 4.60 North Carolina Agricultural And Technical State University A Commemorative Memorial Program Honoring The Late Dr. Ronald E. McNair, Astronaut. Program. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Student Government Association of NC A&T State University. January 28, 1990.
- 4.61 Newspaper photograph. Pictured: Thomas Peterson, great-uncle of Ronald McNair. Reuters. No paper. No date.
- 4.62 A&T plans science symposium. The Chronicle. January 17, 2002.
- 4.63 Spectator joy turns to horror. Pictured: Challenger crew. No paper. No date. Incomplete.
- 4.64 McNair Seriously Injured In car Accident in Texas. Pictured: Dr. Ronald. McNair. September 18, 1981.
- 4.65 McNair Scholars Program Aims to Recruit New Talent. By Tiffany Tinsley. Pictured: Joyce Brown. Photograph by Tiffany Tinsley. A&T Register. September 23, 2004.
- 4.66 A&T recalls life of its own shuttle victim. By Donald W. Patterson. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. February 2, 2003.
- 4.67 Impressive McNair Tribute Attracts 3,500. Pictured: Ronald McNair. A&T Update. Volume 3, No. 9. NC A&T State University. February 7, 1986.
- 4.68 N.C. A&T. Four students in A&T's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program participated in the seventh annual Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program... News & Record. September 2, 2001.
- 4.69 New York Day by Day: McNair Scholarship Fund. Pictured: Carl McNair Sr., Joel McNair, Carl McNair Jr. Photograph by Don Hogan Charles. New York Times. February 11, 1986.
- 4.70 A&T to Honor McNair. Pictured: Dr. Sylvester James Gates Jr. Carolina Times. January 8, 2005.
- 4.71 Letter to the editor praising McNair and A&T. By Annie M. Brown. Daily Reflector. Greenville, NC. February 20, 1986.
- 4.72 The Ronald E. McNair Program. Flyer. NC A&T State University. No date.
- 4.73 A&T scraps plans to honor alumnus. By Allison Foreman. News & Record. January 26, 2001.
- 4.74 Undamaged, but 'a total loss'. Satellite found in wrong orbit. By Harry F. Rosenthal. Greensboro Daily News. February 6, 1984.
- 4.75 Official: Perhaps Westar exploded. By Harry F. Rosenthal. News & Record. February 5, 1984.
- 4.76 Letter from G.F. Rankin, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to Faculty and Staff. Dr. Ronald E. McNair will give keynote address at Honors Day Convocation. NC A&T State University. March 19, 1980.
- 4.77 Proposed Program. Dedication of the Ronald E. McNair Hall. NC A&T State University. June 12, 1987.

- 4.78 Spacelab. Brochure. European Space Agency (ESA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Circa 1982.
- 4.79 Notes for Tour Guides. Notes cover Ronald E. McNair Hall. NC A&T State University. Circa 1987.
- 4.80 Final Copy: Agenda for "Dr. Ron McNair Day". NC A&T State University. March 30, 1984. 2 copies.
- 4.81 The Aggie astronaut. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Greensboro Daily News. February 3, 1984.
- 4.82 At Brooklyn's P.S. 5, Astronaut Held Special Place With Pupils. By Sara Rimer. Pictured: Jannie Taylor. Photograph by Dith Pran. New York Times. February 1, 1986.
- 4.83 Sharing McNair's success. Greensboro Record. February 3, 1984.
- 4.84 Welcome to your spaceport. Brochure. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Circa 1982.
- 4.85 Resolution honoring the memory of the late Dr. Ronald McNair. Copy of resolution, letter and envelope addressed to Ms. Inez Lyons. City Council of the City of Greensboro. January 30, 1986.
- 4.86 We pay the price of progress. By David S. Broder. News & Record. February 1, 1986.
- 4.87 Lifestyle of the Stars. Brochure. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Post 1978.
- 4.88 Remembering Ronald McNair. By Joya Wesley. Pictured: Ronald McNair. A&T Today. Spring 1998.
- 4.89 Challenger Tragedy & Death of Ron McNair. Memory of January 28, 1986, Lingers. By Valerie Touloumbadjian. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Peacemaker. January 23-29, 1992.
- 4.90 A&T hero honored on anniversary. By Elyse Ashburn. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Pictured: Charles Barnes. Pictured: Charles Barnes, Illya Daniels. Photographs by Kim Walker. News & Record. January 29, 2006. 2 copies.
- 4.91
- 4.92 Americans remember Challenger. News & Record. January 29, 1991.
A&T hero remembered. Newspaper photograph. Pictured Cheryl McNair, Kelli Pass-Morgan. Photograph by Scott Hoffman. News & Record. January 29, 1991.
- 4.93 McNair's widow to speak in honor of late astronaut. News & Record. January 26, 1997.
- 4.94 Astronaut to speak at McNair Memorial. Pictured: Dr. Mae C. Jemison. News & Record. January 24, 1991.
- 4.95 The luck runs out. News & Record. January 29, 1986. 2 copies.
- 4.96 Jefferson Pilot/Ronald McNair Endowed Chair in Computer Science. Brochure. Pictured: Ronald McNair. NC A&T State University. Post 1988.
- 4.97 Wording on Base of McNair Sculpture.
Biographical Data for Ronald McNair. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. February 1983. 4 copies.

- 4.98 Dreams of McNair and a Greensboro yet to be. By Jim Rosenberg. News & Record. November 26, 2006.
- 4.99 A&T graduates are source of pride. By Tom Sandin. Letter to the editor. Greensboro Daily News. February 16, 1984.
- 4.100 Upward with Worldly Lessons: Astronaut Mae Jemison credits her success to close encounters with real people. By Maria C. Johnson. Pictured: Dr. Mae Jemison. News & Record. January 28, 1991.
- 4.101 The Ronald E. McNair Program now recruiting... Flyer. Pictured: Ronald E. McNair. NC A&T State University. No date.
- 4.102 A new generation of astronauts will make space shuttle flights commonplace... By Earl Lane. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Copyright 1978 Newsday. Greensboro Daily News. November 12, 1978.
- 4.103 Hometowns honor astronauts. Pictured: Erin Smit. News & Record. February 3, 1986.
- 4.104 A legacy of courage. News & Record. January 28, 2006.
- 4.105 A day of remembrances. Families observe 20th anniversary of disaster. Pictured: William Gerstenmaier, June Scobee. Pictured: Eric McNair Jr., statue of Ronald McNair. High Point Enterprise. January 29, 2006.
- 4.106 State Briefs: Ron McNair's legacy remembered at NC A&T. The Wilmington Journal. February 2, 2006.
- 4.107 McNair 5K to raise funds and health awareness. By Melde Rutledge. Pictured: Ronald McNair. Pictured: Brigadier General Abraham Turner, Cheryl McNair, SGT Norris. Carolina Peacemaker. April 12-18, 2007.
- 4.108 School board asks, what's in a name?. By Morgan Josey Glover. News & Record. July 5, 2007. 2 copies.
- 4.109 Nataya U. Lewis accepted the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Ronald McNair Post Baccalaureate Achieve Program Summer 2007 Fellowship. Pictured: Nataya Lewis. News & Record. October 14, 2007.
- 4.110 The short, strange history of Ron McNair Elementary School at Reedy Fork. By Allen Johnson. News & Record. July 8, 2007.
- 4.111 Heads Up: N.C. A&T's Ronald E. McNair Luncheon Celebration. Pictured: Ronald McNair. News & Record. January 27, 2008.