



The Catalyst

A Newsletter for the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation

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Donors Honored at Two Ceremonies

On May 31, the White Sands Historical Foundation sponsored two check presentation ceremonies in cooperation with the museum and the missile range. It was the foundation's effort to say "thank you" to some of the recent donors to the museum fund.

The first ceremony was at 10:30 a.m. in the main hall of the museum. White Sands Commander, Brig. Gen. William Engel kicked the event off by welcoming the crowd of about 40 attendees and introducing former range commander, Maj. Gen. Niles Fulwyler (ret.) as the chairman of the board of advisors to the historical foundation.

Fulwyler talked about the importance of the museum in preserving the history of such a unique facility as White Sands Missile Range and that there is much to do yet in getting to our goal of a new building. He thanked the foundation members for their efforts in aggressively going after that goal.

In particular, he thanked Lockheed Martin for their continuing support of the range and the museum.

Lockheed Martin has made a pledge to the foundation of \$25,000.

To deliver the first installment

on that promise was Jay Harse, the White Sands Lockheed Martin manager.

Fulwyler introduced Harse to the group and stepped aside so Harse could present a check for \$12,500 to Karen Douds, president of the foundation's board of directors.

After the formal ceremony the crowd noshed on snacks provided by the foundation.

In the afternoon many of the same supporters, with some new faces, returned to the museum for a 3 p.m. ceremony.

Again, Engel and Fulwyler welcomed and introduced guests and honorees. In this case, however, Fulwyler was one of the donors being recognized.

Continued on page 2 with more photos from the ceremony.



Jay Harse, the Lockheed Martin White Sands site manager, presents Karen Douds, president of the White Sands Historical Foundation with a check for \$12,500. The company will later finish their pledge with an additional \$12,500 to total \$25,000.

Donations

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He and Mrs. Linda Epstein, each donated \$5,000 to build and furnish the patio on the north side of the museum. Their donations were made in memory of Gerald Epstein who once was the New Mexico civilian aide to the secretary of the army and a great friend to White Sands Missile Range.

Both Fulwyler and Epstein presented checks of \$5,000 to Douds.

Epstein was joined by several of her children and grandchildren for the event.

Afterwards, a reception was held in the museum's main hall.

Contract Signed With Studio D Architects

The White Sands Historical Foundation signed a contract with Studio D Architects for museum site master planning work on June 6. The contract calls for Studio D Architects to provide preliminary schematics and a master plan for the museum complex.

The master plan will indicate suggested phasing for future work, and will help to determine the scope of future work. Presentation drawings of the master plan and a conceptual sketch of the agreed upon scheme will also be provided.

Contractually the work should be completed in approximately 30 days.

The museum director and foundation executive board members met with the architects at the museum on June 13 to determine the program outline and tour the museum site.



Linda Epstein makes her \$5,000 donation to Karen Douds for the museum patio during ceremonies on May 31.



Maj. Gen. Niles J. Fulwyler (ret.) formalizes his donation of \$5,000 to the White Sands Historical Foundation by presenting a check to Karen Douds during a special recognition ceremony held May 31 in the museum's main hall.

Hall of Fame Induction on July 8

White Sands Missile Range will induct two men from very different backgrounds into its hall of fame this year. They are Carlos Bustamante, a missile engineer and manager, and Father Paul Betowski, S.J., a Catholic chaplain.

The induction ceremony will be part of a special luncheon on July 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the missile range's Frontier Club.

Hall of fame induction is the highest honor White Sands Missile Range can pay to one of its own. It was established in 1980 and currently has 32 members.

Tickets for the induction luncheon are available from the range Public Affairs Office at Bldg. 1782. Reservations can be made until July 3 by calling Public Affairs at 678-1134.

Bustamante was associated with the missile range for 43 years. He is credited with redesigning and improving many missile range facilities when he first started with White Sands.

Later he was intimately involved with the planning for launching rockets and missiles from off range sites to White Sands. This started with Sergeant missile launches from Datil, N. M. and then led to establishing launch facilities at Fort Wingate, near Gallup, N.M. and several sites in Utah. The Utah sites included Blanding and Gilson Butte for Pershing launches and Green River for both Athena and Pershing firings.

When both a Pershing missile and an Athena missile went awry and fell in Mexico, Bustamante

was called on to help spearhead the recovery of the lost vehicles. His fluency in Spanish and diplomatic demeanor in addition to his technical knowledge of the range, made him an indispensable member of the recovery team.

Later he made a reputation for himself as a skilled recruiter by attracting bright, young engineers and scientists to come and work for the government. He received several awards for being one of the top recruiters within the Army.

Father Betowski, S.J., entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1937. He was ordained a priest in the Catholic Church in 1949.

At White Sands, Betowski served as the Catholic Religious Education Coordinator from 1970 to 1984 and as the Catholic Chaplain from 1984 to 2002.

Betowski doesn't fit the mold of most people in the hall of fame which is loaded with engineers, scientists and technicians. One

nominator said, "He never fired a missile and he probably lost most of his budget battles, but no one did more to weave the fabric of the WSMR character."

Betowski operated at White Sands outside the normal day-to-day operations. He is credited with being there after hours and on weekends "fostering community, fellowship and spirituality" for more than 30 years - more than half the life of White Sands. His contributions are hard to quantify except in the testimony of the many people whose lives he touched.



Father Paul Betowski



Carlos Bustamante

In Memoriam

Currently, there are seven names on the first Memorial Board in the museum. They are:

MG Thomas J.P. Jones

MG Alan A. Nord

Mary Bochman

Harris & Hollingworth Family

Edward F. Southworth

Sumiko Piland

William "Bill" Lieberman



The Back Page

On June 5, 1963 President John F. Kennedy visited WSMR to watch missile firings. Here he shakes hands with post residents and employees. On his right is N.M. Representative Joseph Montoya who was later elected to the senate.