

REMEMBERING RANDY STONE (1944-2013)

One of Randy's earliest Landing and Recovery Division (LRD) assignments was working with me on preparing CM-007A for the Apollo Block II Command Module postlanding systems qualification test in the Gulf of Mexico. We had an immediate connection as fellow UT aerospace engineering graduates (Randy in '67 and me in '64), and Randy was a great guy to work with on this and other recovery systems projects. To say the least, Randy was a quick and eager learner and excelled in every assignment in LRD but probably foremost in recovery quarantine systems for which he was LRD's "inside man" for the MQF quarantine trailer for Apollo 12 (Photo #1).

Advancing the calendar to 2002, I received an award from Center Director General Howell and Randy, his deputy, in the Building 2 auditorium (Photo #2). When I got onstage, General Howell said that Randy had told him that I taught him everything he knew, to which I replied "I don't think so". I really appreciated the compliment but knew full well that there were plenty of others in LRD - Paul Chaput, Rod Bass, John Hirasaki, Jim Shannon, John Stonesifer to name a few - who had the privilege of working with and influencing Randy from 1967 to 1972.

I have always been really proud that Randy had his start in LRD and followed his advancement through MOD to the Center level. Randy developed a gracious and ease of leadership style and never forgot his early days in LRD and friends. Godspeed, Randy - you left us way too early, and we will treasure the memory of your dedication, contributions, and friendship.

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Coye Mac Jones
LRD/1964-72
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Photo #1: Randy at MQF door with Apollo 12 astronaut crew walking from helo to MQF aboard USS Hornet on November 24, 1969 (Photo Credit: NASA S69-22849)



Photo #2: General Howell, C. Mac, & Randy in JSC/Building 2 auditorium on September 20, 2002 (Photo Credit: NASA)