

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SOCIAL FOR AL REISZ

*By Ken Philippart
Images by Lisa Philippart*

The Greater Huntsville Section hosted a Celebration of Life social on August 4, 2016 in remembrance of Associate Fellow Al Reisz who passed away on July 21. The social was held at the US Space & Rocket Center Davidson Center, under the Saturn V during the weekly bier garden event, a fitting venue since Al worked on the Apollo program earlier in his career and was also of German heritage.



Al belonged to numerous professional societies and over 30 members across four societies attended the Celebration of Life social. Besides Al's AIAA colleagues, members of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Von Braun Astronomical Society and the HALS Society also gathered to reminisce about Al and his illustrious life and career. Two of Al's brothers attended as well, one of whom drove from Louisville, KY for the gathering.

Tables had been reserved by Vice Chair Naveen Vetcha and Public Policy Director Robert LaBranche. The tables were laid out with portraits of Al along with special remembrance cards and keepsakes designed by section member Ms. Megan Beattie.

Guests told stories and fondly remembered Al who was renowned within the Huntsville technical community. Former section chair Ken Philippart led a formal toast, noting that Al would be pleased his friends had gathered under the rocket he helped build and that Al was now undoubtedly among the stars and looking down with a smile. Glasses were raised and clinked in agreement.

Al Reisz was a giant in the Huntsville community. He will be greatly missed but always remembered.



Ken Philippart toasts Al under the Saturn V.