

TAXTOPICS

A Publication of the Nevada Taxpayers Association serving the citizens of Nevada since 1922

ISSUE 1-06

MARCH 2006

ASTRONAUT KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT LUNCHEON

General Thomas P. Stafford, USAF (Ret.) a former astronaut was the keynote speaker at NTA's luncheon held during the Association's 84th annual meeting. Held at the Stardust Resort on March 9 over 450 members and guests attended the luncheon. Guests included 90 students and teachers from Las Vegas area schools: Hyde Park Elementary, Lamping Elementary, Sig Rogich Middle, and Rancho High were in attendance courtesy of "The Sky's The Limit" sponsors. In addition there were 12 students from UNR's Mackay School of Mines were sponsored courtesy of Barrick Gold Corporation.

The main theme of General Stafford's address was the importance of science and math education for today's students. As part of the program, General Stafford emphasized the importance of encouraging students to enter the math and science fields at an early age. He pointed to the need to graduate more students in the field of engineering in order for our country to compete in the global economy. He said he appreciated NTA's efforts to support research and technology so necessary to foster economic development and diversification in Nevada.

The General also gave the audience a slide-show tour of his experiences as an astronaut including pictures he had taken during his trips into space during the Gemini and Apollo space programs. He spoke of the challenges that faced the first lunar landing he piloted while displaying pictures of Earth he took from the moon's orbit.

We gratefully acknowledge . . .

"THE SKY'S THE LIMIT" PROGRAM SPONSORS

Through their support many Clark County students were able to attend the luncheon and hear General Stafford's message about the importance of education.

American Pacific Corporation

Bank West of Nevada

Cashman Equipment Company

Fred D. Gibson, Jr.

Nevada Power Company

R & R Partners

Sprint

The Howard Hughes Corporation®
An affiliate of General Growth Properties, Inc.

Tiberti Organization

General Stafford talked about the first joint American-Soviet space mission of which he was Commander. In explaining how fast that technology changed he said that the iPods of today have one million times more memory than the computers used during his early Gemini flights. One of his accomplishments of great interest to the audience was his design and development work on the Stealth Fighter which was built and tested in Area 51 of the Nevada Test Site.

General Stafford Visits Area Schools

The day before the annual meeting General Stafford met with students in the morning from Harmon elementary school at the William Mc Cool Science Center located on the grounds of the Frank Lamping elementary school. He spent the afternoon speaking to two assemblies of students from the school. During these sessions there was a constant stream of questions by the students ranging from "how hot was it in space", "how do you sleep", to "how long does it take to get to the moon".

continued on page 2

OFFICERS REELECTED

During the Board of Directors meeting which preceded the luncheon, the Nominating committee recommended that the current officers be retained for another year. That recommendation was approved. Officers serving for another year are:

Chairman - Fred Gibson, American Pacific Corporation (Ret.), Las Vegas

Vice Chairman - Tito Tiberti, Tiberti Construction, Las Vegas

Secretary - Vacant*. (This position will be filled at the next Executive Committee/Board meeting.)

Treasurer - David Turner, Turner Loy & Company LLC, Reno

The results of the election for Board of Directors includes, one new director, Darren Wilson President of Sierra Air Conditioning, Las Vegas. Thomas Sheets and Jay Kornmeyer of Southwest Gas and Wells Fargo respectively, were elected at the Board meeting to fill vacant Board seats. (See page 4 for list of directors.

* *Mendy Elliott of Wells Fargo had been Secretary, but resigned due to taking a new position with Wells Fargo.*

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Gibson in remarks to the Board of Directors explained that it was NTA's concern with improving economic development and diversification efforts in Nevada, that led to the selection of General Thomas Stafford, USAF (Ret.) as the speaker for the annual meeting. He said:

The foundation for the diversification of Nevada's economy rests with the elementary and higher education students of today and tomorrow. For Nevada's economy to grow and provide for the economic well-being of Nevada's citizens an educated work force is required. That workforce will need to be technologically proficient.

Reporting on the time he spent with General Stafford at Frank Lamping elementary school and the McCool Science Center, Gibson said that if just one child was motivated to study math and science harder and continue those studies through college that we would have been successful in having the General address our general meeting.

Area Schools continued from page 1

Thursday morning (March 9) prior to attending a special pre-luncheon reception for the students, the General spoke to an assembly of aeronautic and Junior ROTC students at Rancho high school.

The McCool Science Center

Partnerships can make a difference and the William McCool Science Center at the Frank Lamping elementary school is proof. Built without taxpayer dollars, the PTA, the school's namesake Frank Lamping and the principal Michael O'Dowd deserve accolades for raising funds and soliciting in-kind donations to build and equip the science center, which cost approximately \$900,000. The center which opened in October of 2005 is named in honor of William "Willy" McCool an astronaut on the ill-fated Columbia space mission whose parents Barent and Audrey McCool live in Las Vegas. It is worth the time to visit the school and science center online: www.lampingelementary.com.

With Appreciation to Our Luncheon Sponsors

Anheuser -Busch
 Barrick Gold Corporation
 Boyd Gaming Corporation
 Cox Communications
 KeyState Corporate Management
 Kummer Kaempfer Bonner Renshaw & Ferrario
 Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
 McDonald Carano Wilson LLP
 Nellis Cab Company/Ambassador Limousine
 Nevada Association of Realtors
 Nevada Manufacturers Association
 Nevada Motor Transport Association
 Q & D Construction
 R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.
 Retail Association of Nevada
 Sierra Air Conditioning
 Sierra Health Services, Inc.
 Silver State Materials
 Southwest Gas Corporation
 Terrible Herbst Inc.
 The Campbell Company
 Tim Hafen
 Turner, Loy & Company LLC

TWO AWARDS PRESENTED DURING LUNCHEON

FREE ENTERPRISE AWARD

And the recipient is . . .

DR. ANTHONY MARLON, PRESIDENT OF SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES

The first of the awards presented was The Free Enterprise Award. The award was jointly presented by Kara Kelley, Terry Mayfield and Carole Vilardo to Dr. Anthony Marlon, President of Sierra Health Services. Dr. Marlon created, built and managed several companies that have blossomed and grown into one of the most successful and honored companies of its kind in the nation. He is the founder and chief executive of Sierra Health Services, which also includes Nevada's largest HMO, Health Plan of Nevada, and provides employment for approximately 2,800 people. In addition to his numerous achievements and honors, he is also a board certified specialist in internal medicine and cardiovascular diseases.

This award is a joint effort of Employers Association of Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada Taxpayers Association. It has been presented annually since 1963 to an individual in recognition of their contributions to the growth and progress of Southern Nevada.

CASHMAN GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD

Prior to introducing the winner, Mary Kaye Cashman (of the Cashman family for whom the award is named) introduced last year's winner, Russ Law of the Nevada Department of Transportation who received his permanent award. She then introduced the four finalists vying for the Ninth Annual Cashman Good Government Award: the Juvenile Probation Department Churchill County, for their high school summer school program; the Development Services Center, City of Henderson which was formed to provide one-stop shopping for the development community; Darryl Martin - Assistant County Manager, Clark County, who while serving as Director of Clark County Social Services recommended a cost saving policy change regarding the burial of indigent persons; and Cameron McRae - Director of Transportation, Nye County School District, who achieved cost savings by maximizing bus ridership while reducing routes.

And the winner is . . .

THE JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT OF CHURCHILL COUNTY

Since 1989 the Churchill County Juvenile Probation Department has operated the only high school summer school program in Churchill County. During the 15 years the program has been in operation it has saved the school district in excess of \$500,000. The program is open to any student and affords them the opportunity to earn 2½ credits each summer. Since its inception 1,621 students have completed the program and 48 students received their high school diploma at the end of the program. This summer school has allowed at-risk students to complete high school in 4 years instead of 5 and lowered the drop-out rate.

The program is funded through state and federal grants, community donations, and the Department's budget. The Department contracts with 8 to 10 teachers each summer and the Department dedicates 12 members of its staff to the program.

The Cashman Good Government Award was established on the Nevada Taxpayers Association's 75th Anniversary in February 1997. It is named in honor of the Cashman family who has been active in Nevada civic and community affairs for 100 years and have been members of NTA for over 60 years. The award recognizes those State and local government employees who make strong and consistent efforts to spend taxpayer dollars wisely and efficiently. The Selection Committee comprised of NTA members reviews all nomination forms submitted. The entries are numerically scored. Based on the score, finalists are selected and the winner announced. The members of the committee this year were: Tim Cashman (Las Vegas) Chairman; Ray Bacon (Carson City); Larry Bennett (Carson City); Sharon Byram (Elko); Margaret Cavin (Reno); Mendy Elliott (Reno); Russ Fields (Reno); Joe Guild (Reno); Steve Hill (Las Vegas); Mike Sheppard (Winnemucca) and David Turner (Reno).

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Benjamin - Las Vegas • Larry W. Bennett - Carson City • Mark E. Brown - Las Vegas • Michael J. Brown - Washington D.C. • Barbara Smith Campbell - Reno • Robert Campbell - Henderson • Randall E. Capurro - Las Vegas • Timothy Cashman - Las Vegas • Margaret Cavin - Reno • Sherry Colquitt - Las Vegas • T. J. Day - Reno • Jim Dickey - Reno • Lou E. Emmert - Las Vegas • Fred D. Gibson, Jr.* - Las Vegas • John R. Gibson - Las Vegas • Terry Graves - Las Vegas • C. Joseph Guild III - Reno • M. Kent (Tim) Hafen - Pahrump • Greg Heinrich - Las Vegas • Sean T. Higgins - Las Vegas • Amy Hill - Reno • Steve Hill - Las Vegas • Wayne Horiuchi - Sacramento CA. • Donald G. Karras - Denver CO • Jay Kornmeyer - Las Vegas • Robert List - Las Vegas • Ann Lynch - Las Vegas • Anne MacFarlane - Reno • Berlyn D. Miller - Las Vegas • Monte L. Miller - Las Vegas • James L. Murphy - Reno • Ann O'Connell - Las Vegas • Kevin Orrock - Las Vegas • Dean A. Rhoads - Tuscarora • Sylvia Samano - Reno • Pat Shalmy - Las Vegas • Thomas Sheets - Las Vegas • Michael Sheppard - Winnemucca • George W. Smith - Las Vegas • Jack Stanko - Reno • Scott Swain - Las Vegas • Tito Tiberti* - Las Vegas • David Turner* - Reno • Darren L. Wilson - Las Vegas

*Denotes Officer

EMERITUS

Walt Casey - Las Vegas • Ted Hermann - Reno • Charles Lenzie - Las Vegas
John Marvel - Battle Mountain • James Robertson - Carson City

IN MEMORY

During the last few months the Association has lost two long time supporters, James Cashman, Jr. and Frank Scott, both of Las Vegas.. At the time of their deaths both were Board Members Emeritus of the Association. Their accomplishments professionally, and their support of numerous community and civic affairs through-out the State were legendary.

James Cashman, Jr. died in December 2005. He was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1970 and Chaired the Board of Directors from 1985 to 1988 and was the driving force in the Association opening a Las Vegas office 20 years ago (March 1, 1986). Frank Scott died in February of this year and had served as a Board member from 1973.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

TAXTOPICS is a publication of the Nevada Taxpayers Association. Unless otherwise noted, original material in this publication is not copyrighted and may be quoted or reproduced with attribution to the Nevada Taxpayers Association.
