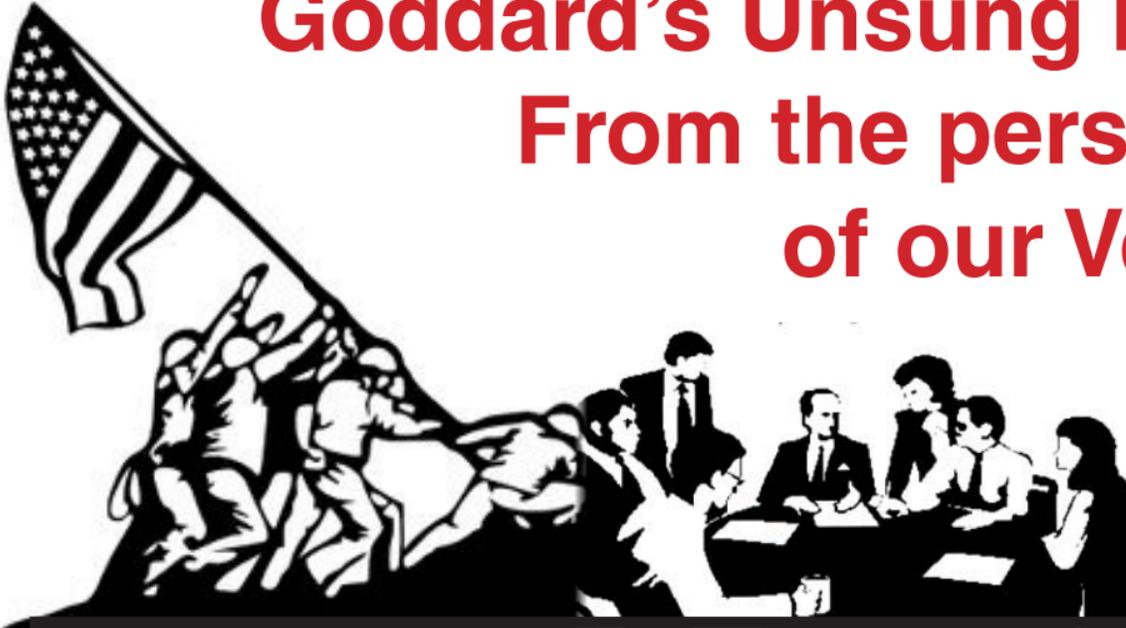




## Veterans Day Commemoration Event

# Goddard's Unsung Heroes: From the perspective of our Veterans



Tuesday, November 10, 2015



# Special Message

Throughout our country's history, brave men and women have willingly answered the call of duty to defend our Nation and our way of life. The actions of our servicemen and women have changed the course of history, touched lives, and spread freedom and democracy to nations around the world.

Veterans Day is a time to remember and pay tribute to the brave men and women of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy who served in previously, who are serving today, and who have made the ultimate sacrifice before having the chance to become honored veterans. Having endured great personal sacrifices, these men and women and their families need the support of our entire community.

As we honor and celebrate the contributions of all of our Nation's Veterans, we take special pride in those veterans who work here at Goddard Space Flight Center. They enhance our mission with their skills, knowledge, discipline, experience, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of the entire Goddard community.

The Veterans Advisory Committee is deeply thankful for the veterans who actively served our country in the past and those who continue to uphold their duties today. The entire committee is privileged to join all our Goddard colleagues in saluting the service and honoring the sacrifices of these special men and women who walk the halls of our buildings, offices, and test facilities each day.

# Agenda

- Welcome/Opening Remarks .....Judy Bruner, Veterans Advisory Committee, Senior Champion
- National Anthem .....Mark Hubbard, VAC Code 300, Directorate Representative
- Introduction of Goddard Veterans.....David Boon, Veterans Advisory Committee, Co-Chair
- Goddard's Unsung Heroes Presentations.....Stanley Comisiak, U.S. Army, Code 250  
Benjamin Michael, U.S. Navy, Code 690  
Eric Holmes, U.S. Air Force, Code 227  
Elizabeth Harley, U.S. Marines, Code 200.2  
Ross Bagwell, U.S. Army, Code 586  
Tyrone Dillard, U.S. Marines, Code 383  
Tupper Hyde, U.S. Army Reserves, Code 590
- Panel Discussion/Q&A
- Salute to our U.S. Armed Forces Veterans.....Video Presentation
- Acknowledgements/Closing Remarks .....Charles Morrison, Veterans Advisory Committee, Co-Chair

# Stanley Comisiak

**Military:** Specialist E5 Tech Sergeant, U.S. Army

**Goddard:** Employee Assistance Program Consultant, Code 250



Stanley “Stosh” Comisiak is a licensed professional counselor with over 20 years as an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counselor.. As an EAP counselor, Stosh has expertise in stress management and chemical dependency treatment. During his career, he has helped design programs for USDA employees and their families to prepare them for deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq and the adjustments needed subsequent to their return home.. An emergency responder for Federal Occupational Health since 1995, Stosh was first on the scene at the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. He has also worked many national emergencies including hurricanes Andrew, Ike, and Katrina.

Stosh is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, 1965–68. He went on to complete his bachelors at West Chester State University in West Chester, PA, in 1972 and his master’s in clinical developmental psychology at Antioch University in Baltimore, MD. Stosh has also pursued advanced courses in human resources management and organizational development. Before coming to Goddard, Stosh worked at the Department of Agriculture in D.C. and Greenbelt, National Gallery of Art, F.E.M.A., FMS and many other Federal agencies.

*“We can’t equate spending on veterans with spending on defense. Our strength is not just in the size of our defense budget, but in the size of our hearts, in the size of our gratitude for their sacrifice. And that’s not just measured in words or gestures.” -Jennifer Granholm*

# Benjamin Michael

**Military:** Commander, U.S. Navy

**Goddard:** Deputy Manager, Crustal Dynamics Data Information System,  
Code 690



Patrick Michael is currently the Deputy Manager for the Crustal Dynamics Data Information System (CDDIS), NASA's premiere repository of space geodesy data. His education included degrees in chemistry, physics and engineering from Shepherd University, and MS and PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Virginia. Patrick was a National Research Council (NRC) postdoctoral fellow with NASA from 1998–2000 and on staff at The Catholic University of American until 2012.

In his other life as a U.S. Naval Officer, he has been a subject matter expert and science advisor to the Commander, Sixth Fleet and Commander Naval Forces Europe, had three Commanding Officer tours, co-authored the 2009 National Security Space Posture Review, been a project superintendent of several hundred million dollar ship modernization/ refurbishment projects, worked with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering ASD(R&E) on a myriad of projects, oversaw the Afghanistan \$10 billion dollar Strategic Infrastructure build program for the Afghanistan National Army and National Police, and is currently assigned to the Naval Sea Systems Command supporting the Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

*“Never tell people how to do things but tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results!” – George Patton*

# Eric Holmes

**Military:** Senior Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force

**Goddard:** Facilities Operations Specialist, Code 227



Eric M. Holmes was born and raised in Northeast Washington D.C., attending private school for majority of his educational years. This is where he believes he gained the appreciation of service. Along with scholastic studies, the school set a mandated for Eric to attend to social adversities at an early age. Being raised in the inner city allowed Eric to be exposed to many different aspects of socialistic adversities. As an only child in a challenging environment, he was able to navigate the obstacles faced in his everyday life. His determination and discipline afforded him the opportunity to be eligible to join the U.S. Air Force immediately after graduating high school, unlike many of his peers who were tainted with extensive criminal records.

*“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.” – Colin Powell*

# Elizabeth Harley

**Military:** Staff Sergeant E-6, U.S. Marine

**Goddard:** Customer Service Specialist, Code 200.2



Staff Sergeant Elizabeth Harley was born on January 26, 1973 in San Diego, California. She enlisted in the Marine Corps on February 2, 1992. She graduated in May 1992 from November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina. She served the majority of her time on active duty at Camp Pendleton, California, working in supply administration. Her last six years of duty were spent in the Marine Corps Reserve, serving with Supply Company in Washington, DC. She completed a total of 17 years of honorable service. Elizabeth completed three tours of duty in the combat zones of Al Anbar Province, Iraq, before leaving the service as a disabled veteran. She is married and has three daughters.

*“Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world; Marines don’t have that problem.”*  
– Ronald Reagan

# Ross Bagwell

**Military:** Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army

**Goddard:** Senior Systems Engineer, Code 586



Ross Bagwell grew up in Minnesota and enlisted into the Marine Corps in September 1987. He spent 4 years on active duty in the security forces and infantry (deploying to Operation Sharp Edge and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm), and 4 years in the reserve infantry. He has spent the last 20 years in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve (deploying under Task Force Santa Fe ISO Enduring Freedom, Task Force Cajun Fury ISO Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom), where he is currently a Command Sergeant Major for a Drill Sergeant battalion located in Lynchburg, Virginia. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geographic information systems from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has worked in the geospatial information career field since 1993, and now works under contract as a senior systems engineer for the Earth Science Data and Information Systems Project.

*"It's never easy to do the right thing." – Unknown*

# Tyrone Dillard

**Military:** Sergeant, U.S. Marines

**Goddard:** Chief Safety & Mission Assurance Officer, Code 383



Tyrone Dillard was born and raised in Washington D.C. As a child, he attended 11 different schools because his family often moved due to economic challenges. During this phase of his life, he was a marginal student with behavioral issues that were common where he grew up. That all changed after he joined the U.S. Marines Corps in 2001, just two weeks prior to 9/11. Despite his poor grades in high school, Tyrone managed to score well enough on the military entrance examination to qualify to be an aircraft electronics (avionics) repair technician in the Marine Corps. With the discipline instilled in him from boot camp, he went on to complete one of the most difficult military programs to become an avionics technician in 2002.

Once stationed in Camp Pendleton, CA, Tyrone became one of the best technicians in his shop, which helped him reach the rank of Sergeant (E-5) in just 4 short years. Tyrone served two combat deployments in Iraq, and both times he led more than 10 Marines as a non-commissioned officer. Tyrone served for 5 years before opting out in 2006 to pursue a career in engineering. Since then, Tyrone has been working for NASA and attending college. Tyrone has completed two bachelors' degrees and a master's degree in engineering

(within the past 3 years), all while supporting three flight projects (ELC, GPM, and ICESat-2) as a mission assurance engineer. At age 32, Tyrone is currently the Chief Safety and Mission Assurance Officer for the ICON and GOLD projects. As a Marine, Tyrone was trained to be courageous enough to take the path of most resistance when it is necessary to gain a tactical advantage. He now applies this to all aspects of his life.

*"He who starts behind in the great race of life must forever remain behind or run faster than the man in front." -Benjamin Mays*

# Tupper Hyde

**Military:** Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Reserves

**Goddard:** Chief, Mission Engineering and Systems Analysis Division, Code 590



Tupper Hyde, PhD, is the Chief of the Mission Engineering and Systems Analysis (MESA) Division at Goddard Space Flight Center's Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate (AETD). The MESA Division provides leadership and expertise in mission systems engineering, payload and instrument system engineering, mission design, navigation, propulsion, attitude control, GN&C sensor and actuator technologies, and space systems protection through the entire life cycle of NASA's science and exploration missions. Prior to that, Tupper was the Chief Engineer of the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) at NASA Headquarters. Here he was the technical conscience for the 97 missions SMD has in formulation, development, and operation. He advised the NASA Associate Administrator for Science and the Agency's Chief Engineer on mission technical readiness and program and project management compliance. Prior to his NASA Headquarters assignment, Tupper was the Associate Chief of the MESA Division and before that, the Chief Technologist of AETD.

Tupper is also a Lieutenant Colonel and Space Intelligence Officer in the Army Reserves. He served on active duty the Field Artillery branch in the early 1990s and was also activated in 2003 as a reservist supporting the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC. Tupper earned his doctorate in aeronautics and astronautics from MIT. He holds 10 patents and has received numerous awards including the Robert H. Goddard Exceptional Achievement Award for Leadership.

*"The reason the American Army does so well in wartime, is that war is chaos, and the American Army practices it on a daily basis."  
– from a post-war debriefing of a German general*

Thank you, for helping us salute our service men and women from all branches, all eras, active and inactive.





To learn more about the Veterans Advisory Committee, please visit our website at <http://vac.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.html>.