

UMA Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter for USPTO Veterans and Families

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The Man in the Arena

By Kat Wyrozebski

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievements, and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory or defeat."

*Theodore Roosevelt
"Citizenship in A Republic"
Paris, France 23 April 1910*

THIS ISSUE

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Space Program
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and Fitness

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Veterans and Pioneers

September 12, 1962 marked an important milestone in U.S. History. In his Speech at the Rice Stadium, President John Kennedy said:

"...Those who came before us made certain that this country rode the first waves of the industrial revolutions, the first waves of modern invention, and the first wave of the nuclear power, and this generation does not intend to flounder in the backwash of the coming age. We mean to be part of it-- we mean to lead it.... Yet the vows of this Nation can only be fulfilled if we in this Nation are first, and, therefore, we intend to be first.... To solve these mysteries, to solve them for the good of all men and to become the world's leading space-faring nation...."

As a result, on April 12, 1981, the first space shuttle, COLUMBIA, was launched and piloted by John Young and Robert Crippen, both U.S. Naval Aviators. Sally Ride became the first woman astronaut as part of the CHALLENGER crew in June 1983. The second CHALLENGER flight introduced USAF Col. Guion S. Bluford, the first African American in space. As the race for the moon continued, many space shuttles were launched such as Atlantis, Endeavour, and Discovery. The latter one flew past Russian Space Station Mir in 1995 with former USAF test pilot Eileen Collins, who later became the first woman to command a shuttle mission.



However, on July 20, 1969, Apollo XI was the spacecraft that landed the first humans on the Moon. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spent approximately 2.5 hours on the surface of the Moon and brought over 47.5 pounds of lunar material back to Earth to be studied. Neil Armstrong passed away August 25, 2012. On November 6, 2014, Buzz Aldrin came to the USPTO.

Top from Left: Neil Armstrong (USN), Buzz Aldrin (USAF), Michael Collins (USAF)

Middle: Buion S. Bluford (USAF)

Below Eileen Collins (USAF)



UMA Fitness

Sky Diving and other exhilarating special events — POC Brent Howard

Fitness challenge / Gym Workouts & Basketball pick up games — POC Marta Dulko & Kat Wyrozebski /Margaret Squalls

Tough Mudder Run, Kick Boxing — POC Marta Dulko /Kat Wyrozebski

Game/sports watching events — POC Brent Howard

Softball Team / Bowling — POC Albert Gagliardi/Brent Howard

Scuba Diving—POC Albert Gagliardi

BUZZ

ONE WHO REACHED THE STARS

Born in Montclair New Jersey on January 20, 1930 to Marion Moon, a daughter of an Army chaplain, and Edwin Eugene Aldrin, an Air Force Colonel. Buzz graduated from West Point Military Academy third in his class with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He joined the Air Force where he flew F86 Sabres in 66 combat missions in Korea, shot down two MIG-15's, and was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following Korea he was stationed in Germany as a F-100 pilot. After his tour in Germany he attended MIT to earn a Doctorate of Science in Astronautics and wrote his thesis on Manned Orbital Rendezvous.

He was selected by NASA in 1963 into the third group of astronauts. Aldrin was the first with a doctorate degree and became known as "Dr. Rendezvous". The docking and rendezvous techniques he devised for spacecraft in Earth and Lunar orbits became critical to the success of the Gemini and Apollo programs. He pioneered underwater training techniques as a substitute for zero gravity flights to simulate spacewalking. In 1966 on the Gemini 12 orbital mission, Buzz performed the world's first successful spacewalk, setting a new extra-vehicular activity (EVA) record of 5 1/2 hours. On July 20, 1969, Buzz and Neil Armstrong made their historic Apollo 11 moonwalk, becoming the first two humans to set foot on another world. An estimated 600 million people witnessed this unprecedented heroic endeavor.

After leaving NASA in July 1971, Aldrin was assigned as the Commandant of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at the Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He retired after 21 years military of service in March 1972 and returned as a civilian. He remained at the forefront of efforts to ensure America's continued leadership in human space exploration. He devised a master plan for a mission to Mars known as "Aldrin Mars Cycler" - a spacecraft system with perpetual cycling orbits between Earth and Mars. Aldrin has received three U.S. patents for his schematics of a modular space station, starbooster reusable rockets, and a multi-crew modules for space flight. He founded Starcraft Boosters Inc., a rocket design company and the ShareSpace Foundation, a non-profit devoted to advancing space education, exploration and affordable flight experience for all.

On November 16, 2011, Aldrin was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor for his significant contribution to society and for blazing the trail of space exploration.

As one of the leading space exploration advocates, Aldrin continues to chart a course for future space travel to Mars.

Aldrin's publications include autobiographies *Return to Earth* (1997) and *Magnificent Desolation* (2009). He was a Boy Scout and has a soft spot in his heart for future generations.



HR Point of Contact

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Current Events

[Wreaths Across America](#)

UMA members volunteer with WAA and travel to the local National Cemeteries. See the Facebook page for information on this latest great event.

[Veteran's Day Celebration Photos](#)

If you have pictures of the event - we would like copies. Please contact your board of directors to share.

[Employer Support / Guard and Reserve \(ESGR\) External Outreach](#)

UMA members volunteer with ESGR in organizing events that teach Veterans how to write effective resumes and how to gain proper interview skills. For more information, please contact Lawana Hixon.

[Wounded Warrior Wards](#)

This program was put on hold for a short while as thankfully, the many wounded warriors are not filling the hospital wards as they used to. If you are interested in volunteering for future events at the Wounded Warrior wards in Bethesda or Belvoir, please contact Brent Howard. Once the program resumes, we will be in contact with you again.

- Check our calendar at <http://ptomilitaryassociation.org/events> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/USPTOMilitaryAssociation> for the latest!
- Activities Corner. We Need You! Please join us in 2015 for any number of sports and activities. It's a great way to enjoy camaraderie or even improve your health.

Classifieds

Looking for newsletter co-editors and assistant editors.

If you would like to consider writing for the UMA Newsletter, please email us at UMA@uspto.gov.

USPTO Military

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