

## NASA Honor Award (Individual) Details

Award Title:  
Distinguished Public Service Medal

Name of Nominee: JONES, ERIC M	Nominee's Organization: NA
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Award Amount:	Funding Organization: OCOMM-HQ
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Charge Code Information:

Citation:  
For superior performance in creating Apollo Lunar Surface Journal, an online archive of Apollo Moonwalkers.

Justification:  
Dr. Eric M. Jones is the creator of the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal (ALSJ), a vast online archive that documents and analyzes the actions and experiences of the Apollo Moonwalkers with an unsurpassed level of detail, accuracy, and completeness, and is readily available to both the space community and the public. Every moment of the descent, surface stay, ascent, and rendezvous phases of the six Apollo lunar landing missions is covered in minute detail, making the ALSJ an invaluable historical document and unique resource. From 1989 to 1993 Eric sat down with ten of the twelve Apollo moonwalkers to conduct in-depth reviews of their missions, often for several days at a time. With the mission transcripts, audio and video recordings serving as reference and as "memory joggers," Eric led them through each moment, recording and later transcribing the discussions. He then produced complete annotated transcripts for each mission, with the astronauts' comments woven into the transcripts, along with Eric's own commentary to explain details of events, procedures, and equipment. To do this, Eric also tackled the enormous task of correcting any errors in the thousands of pages of original transcripts, checking key details not only with the astronauts but with NASA historians and technical specialists. As a trained astronomer, Eric also brought a keen eye for scientific detail to discussions of the astronauts' geologic explorations and activities. He also included valuable detail from the astronauts' post-flight debriefings and other documents to amplify the astronauts' comments. When it was first launched in the 1990s, the ALSJ website instantly became an essential resource for anyone who wanted to understand the what, how, and why of everything the astronauts did on the Moon, as well as during the six lunar landings and ascents—and the lessons they learned in the process. At that time, JSC's Ben Feist was a multimedia software developer with a growing interest in Apollo and its explorations. He recalls that in those early days of the Internet the ALSJ stood out as an extraordinary example of what a website could do. In the age of Artemis, the ALSJ has become an incredibly valuable resource for the project. "I see it being referenced on a daily basis at JSC as we structure our return to the Moon on Artemis," Ben Feist says. When his Artemis teammates need information on such details as the shorthand and symbols used on the Apollo astronauts' cuff checklists, or the specific descent and landing directory used to reach the Apollo 17 landing site, the ALSJ is "the first place to look for answers.... Without a doubt, the ALSJ is actively enabling NASA's return to the Moon by providing a 'crib sheet' that allows all team members to easily access important lessons from Apollo." In the years since he launched the ALSJ, Eric has utilized NASA's vast electronic archives to expand the website, infusing the annotated mission transcripts with strategically placed links to such resources as post-flight debriefing transcripts, documentation of spacecraft, space suits, and lunar surface tools and experiments, and lunar sample catalogues. He's also added a rich library of photographs, video clips, mission-related charts, landing site maps, and other resources. Enlisting contributions by other space historians and specialists, Eric has turned the ALSJ into a living document that is frequently updated as new details of the missions come to light—a process that continues even today, more than half a century after we first reached the Moon. Above all, the ALSJ a priceless historical record of the Apollo missions. Anyone with a web browser can immerse themselves in a moment-by-moment document of the six Apollo landings through the eyes of the astronauts who flew those missions. Thinking about this, I am filled with gratitude for Eric's foresight and his outstanding contribution to history, and to space exploration.

Comments:

Initiator: HARRIS , RANDOLPH	Nominator: STEPHENSON, JOHNNY	Approver: STEPHENS, PHILISHA B	Effective Date: 05/04/2023
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