

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Hello,

I have some very sad news to share, Larry Korb, passed away today. Evidently, his health had been declining over the last few weeks. Jan and Bill (his son) were caring for Larry at home. Last night, Larry took a turn for the worst and his other son, Jim, the doctor, came over and told Jan it didn't look good.

At this time, there isn't a service planned.

I know that we all share the best memories of our buddy, Larry and I knew that you would want to know.

Hope that you are both well and surviving, this crazy pandemic.....

Be safe....

Love,
Jan



Lawrence J. Korb

I had the pleasure of meeting Larry in the late 1960's when we were working on the Apollo Program for NASA. Larry and I were supervisors in Materials and Processes Engineering during the development of the NASA Space Shuttle Program. Larry was the engineers engineer. He was focused and passionate about materials design, testing and research. He selected and directed the "A" Team for metallurgy and thermal protection systems. More than his technical expertise and analytical skills, Larry was a good friend and team leader. I enjoyed his mentoring insight into our daily problems. We also shared a passion for telling the story of our careers. He worked for several years on a great biography of our strange journey into space at North American Aviation and Rockwell. His probing questions and curiosity will be missed as will his wonderful stories of how things really happened. God Bless you Larry and enjoy your new dimension to explore.....Jerry Blackburn

Bio:

Lawrence Korb has spent 45 years in the aerospace field as an engineer, engineering supervisor, and later as a consultant to the Space Shuttle Program. He was as engineering supervisor of Metals and Producibility on the Apollo Program, engineering supervisor of Metals and later engineering supervisor of the Thermal Protection System Materials on the Space Shuttle Program. He was a member of Panel 10 (Analysis of Fracture Areas), investigating the Apollo fire in 1967 (Apollo 204 Review Board), and a member of the NASA Hardware Forensic Team investigating the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia (Columbia Accident Investigation Board) in 2003.

In his assignment as engineering supervisor, he was responsible for conducting the failure analyses of more than 1,200 failures that occurred in the development, acceptance testing, or in service of the Apollo and Space Shuttle Programs. He is a fellow of the American Society for Materials (ASM) and served as Handbook Committee Chairman of ASM.

He has written chapters on materials in books on stainless steels, corrosion of manned spacecraft, advanced composite materials, material selection, and welding of the Space Shuttle Crew Module. He was co-chairman of the ASM Corrosion Handbook. He has given over sixty lectures in the aerospace field, including shipboard lectures, lectures at universities, and published more than twenty papers.

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I have had the privilege of being an engineer who worked on both the Apollo and Space Shuttle Orbiter Programs for more than 45 years. It has been a fascinating and rewarding experience, along with its share of pressures and disappointments. Come take this exciting journey with me. In this book I present the contributions of 30 key scientists who, over a period of 2500 years, made the Moon visit possible in my lifetime. I review the birth of the Space Age, early Russian dominance in the sixties, and the successful landing on the Moon. The details of the failure analyses of the Apollo Fire, which cost the lives of three Apollo astronauts, are presented, along with the corrective actions taken. I cover the contribution

of the Mercury and Gemini programs, the details of the design of the Apollo and the greatest material challenges we faced. The book also describes the Lunar Module; without its concept, we may have never made the Moon landings. The book also details how we beat the Russians to the Moon, covers all Apollo missions, and how we saved the Apollo 13 astronauts. Finally, I present what I consider to be the Apollo legacy. This book presents the details of the building of the Space Shuttle Orbiter and the crucial development of its heat shield. It also points out key failures that had to be resolved. Included is a Chapter on the Russian Space Shuttle, the Buran, comparing it to the Space Shuttle Orbiter. The book covers the failure of the Challenger Spacecraft and what went wrong, as well as how we determined the cause of the Columbia Spacecraft failure. It also discusses the science of reentry of the Space Shuttle Orbiter, the future of manned space, and the legacy of the Space Shuttle. This book is a detailed documentary of the American's manned space programs. Read on and enjoy!