

## **To the Pioneers of the Moon**

*Dedicated to Ed Smith and the other Star Sailors who have gone before...*

In days of dreams and starlit skies, a team arose with fiery eyes,  
Their hearts ablaze with visions grand, to touch the moon, to make a stand.  
Through sleepless nights and endless toil, they turned their dreams to earthly soil,  
With minds alight and hands so skilled, they forged a path, their spirits filled.  
The engineers with knowledge vast, who solved the riddles of the past,  
The scientists who paved the way, to lunar realms where shadows play.  
They built the ships that dared to dream, to sail where none had dared to  
scheme,  
Through trials fierce and challenges bold, their mission was a tale retold.  
Families watched with bated breath, Each launch, a dance with life and death,  
Their loved ones ventured to the void, with hope and pride their fears alloyed.  
The sacrifices great and small, The silent tears, the fervent calls,  
For every step that led to flight, was paid with courage, day and night.  
To those who braved the unknown vast, to these pioneers whose shadows cast  
Upon the moon a timeless trace, A testament to the human race.  
We honor them, their dreams, their sacrifice, their journey etched in lunar life,  
For they who reached beyond the skies, remind us all to ever rise.  
In memory of those who dared, whose hearts with lunar dreams were paired,  
Your legacy is, a beacon bright, Guides us onward, through the night.

***G. A. Blackburn , June 25,2024***

**Ed Smith: A Memorial Tribute**

## **Title: Remembering Ed Smith, Aerospace Engineering Pioneer and Friend**

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In the realm of aerospace engineering, where dreams take flight and the impossible becomes reality, Ed Smith stood as a towering figure. For 97 years, he graced this world with his brilliance, his vision, and his unwavering dedication to advancing the frontier of human capability. Today, we gather to honor and remember a man whose legacy is etched not only in the annals of aerospace history but also in the hearts of those who had the privilege of calling him a friend.

Ed's journey began with a curiosity that knew no bounds. From a young age, he was captivated by the mysteries of the skies, and this fascination only grew stronger with time. He pursued his passion with relentless vigor, earning his place among the luminaries of aerospace engineering. His contributions were many, from groundbreaking research to innovative designs that pushed the boundaries of what was thought possible.

Yet, for all his professional accomplishments, Ed was much more than an engineer. He was a mentor, a guide, and a source of inspiration for countless individuals. His colleagues admired his expertise and his willingness to share his knowledge, always eager to nurture the next generation of engineers. To his friends, Ed was a beacon of kindness, generosity, and warmth, ever ready to lend an ear or a helping hand.

One of Ed's most cherished roles was that of a friend. He believed in the power of human connection, in the strength of bonds forged through shared experiences and mutual respect. His friends recall his infectious laughter, his thoughtful advice, and the way he could light up a room simply by being present. Ed's friendship was a gift, one that left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

As we remember Ed today, we celebrate not only his achievements but also the man he was. His legacy lives on in the advancements he championed, in the lives he touched, and in the memories we hold dear. Ed Smith's story is one of brilliance and benevolence, a testament to a life well-lived and a spirit that will continue to inspire.

In honoring Ed's memory, we carry forward his passion for exploration, his commitment to excellence, and his unwavering belief in the power of human potential. Let us remember him not with sadness, but with gratitude for the remarkable legacy he leaves behind.

Rest in peace, Ed. Your journey may have ended, but your spirit soars on

***Apollo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary You Tube Interview....***

<https://youtu.be/wfyJSwTwapo> ([facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com))

## **National Air and Space Museum (Hall of Fame)**

[Edward P. Smith Engineer | National Air and Space Museum \(si.edu\)](#)



Foil: 28 Panel: 3 Column: 2 Line: 21

**Wall of Honor Level:**

Air and Space Sponsor

**Honored by:**

Ms. Denise Smith Macmac

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Mr. Smith was the Vice-President and Chief Engineer on the Apollo Command and Service Module for Rockwell International, Downey California. He was assigned to that position after the Apollo 1 incident and continued through Apollo 17.

As Vice-President, Chief Engineer and later Chief Program Manager he managed the design and manufacturing of the Shuttle Orbiter and continued through the successful early flights. He retired from Rockwell Space Division in 1985.

In 1986, he was appointed Vice-President Engineering, Advanced Systems Division (B-2 Program), Northrup Corporation. He retired in 1992, as Vice-President, B-2 Division, Program Manager, Stealth Bomber Program.

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*Wall of Honor profiles are provided by the honoree or the donor who added their name to the Wall of Honor. The Museum cannot validate all facts contained in the profiles.*

Foil: 28

**Edward P. Smith**

**Fullerton, CA, 92835**

**National Columbia Memorial Space Center**

2018 -2024    Inspiration Renovation Task Force

**Northrop Grumman Corporation**

2001-2006            Consultant

**Northrop Corporation**

1989-1992            Vice President and B-2 Program Manager

1988-1989            Vice President and General Manager  
B-2 Program Manager  
B-2 Division

1988-1988            Vice President and Deputy General Manager  
B-2 Program Manager

1987-1988            Vice President, Operations  
Advanced Systems Division (B-2)

1985-1987            Vice President, Engineering  
Advanced Systems Division (B-2)

**Rockwell International Corporation**

1984-1985            Vice President, Engineering  
North American Space Operations

1980-1984            Vice President, Engineering  
Space Transportation and Systems Group

1978-1980            Vice President and General Manager  
Shuttle Orbiter Division

1976-1978            Vice President and Program Manager  
Shuttle Space Division

1972-1976            Vice President, Engineering and  
Shuttle Chief Engineer, Space Division

1968-1972            Apollo Chief Engineer, Space Division

1965-1968            Director, Apollo Projects Engineering  
Space Division

### **North American Aircraft Division**

1963-1965            Supervisor, Engineering Propulsion

1951-1963            Senior Design Engineer

### **Personal Achievements**

Certificate of Appreciation, National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration

Public Service Award, National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal

NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal

NASA Silver Snoopy Award

1984 Aerospace Scientist of the Year -  
Encyclopedia Britannica

1984 Engineering Alumni of the Year – University of California,  
Los Angeles

### **U. S. Navy**

1945-1946            Active Duty

### **Education**

B. S. University of California, Los Angeles

50 Units of Graduate Studies – Avionics Flight Control