

**Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial  
Lecture Series No. 34**

# **ONIZUKA SPACE SCIENCE DAY**

**March 12, 2022**

Presented by:  
**Astronaut Ellison S.  
Onizuka Memorial  
Committee**



Sponsored by:

**HONDA**

The Power of Dreams





**Challenger Astronauts:** (left to right, rear row) Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis and Judith Resnik. (left to right, front row) Michael Smith, Dick Scobee and Ronald McNair.

**Onizuka Space Science Day is dedicated to the memory of the seven Challenger astronauts, who on January 28, 1986 lost their lives in pursuit of their dreams.**

**Their courage and ambition continues to inspire all.**

Francis Scobee	Commander	Washington
Michael Smith	Co-Pilot	North Carolina
Ellison Onizuka	Mission Specialist	Hawaii
Ronald McNair	Mission Specialist	South Carolina
Judith Resnik	Mission Specialist	Ohio
Gregory Jarvis	Payload Specialist	New York
Christa McAuliffe	High School Teacher	New Hampshire

# The Onizuka Lecture Series

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Dear Participant,

Welcome to the annual Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Lecture Series. Astronaut Onizuka had many dreams - one of which was to help inspire the youth of America to strive for and achieve their career goals. This lecture series was developed in his memory to realize this dream by creating a forum for young people to gather information and receive guidance in the various options available in science-related careers.

We are fortunate to have as our keynote speaker NASA Astronaut Michael Reed Barratt, MD. In addition, the lecture series will feature many other prominent authorities who will present various topics ranging from planetarium shows to a robotics demonstration.

We hope that this program will not only help you to learn more about the space frontiers, but also to help you to focus on your future endeavors here on Earth. Enjoy and learn.

The Board of Directors  
Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee  
<http://onizukamemorial.org>

## LECTURE SERIES GOALS

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1. To increase our youth's interest in space science and related fields.
2. To foster awareness of educational and career opportunities in these fields.
3. To carry on Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka's passion of helping students by:
  - ❖ Sharing his dreams.
  - ❖ Describing career opportunities.
  - ❖ Urging them to do their very best.
  - ❖ Placing the importance of education in fulfilling one's goals and dreams.
  - ❖ Sharing the excitement of the U.S. space program.
  - ❖ Inspiring them to appreciate the greatness of our country.

# Keynote Speaker

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Michael Reed Barratt , MD  
NASA ASTRONAUT



## Keynote Speaker

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Expedition 19/20 (March 26, 2009 to October 11, 2009). Dr. Barratt launched as Flight Engineer on Soyuz TMA-14 to the station on March 26, 2009. During this time period, Dr. Barratt as the US Segment Lead participated in the transition from three to six permanent station crew members, and oversaw two visiting space shuttles and the arrival of the first Japanese H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV). Dr. Barratt performed two spacewalks in the Russian Orlan suit and participated in further station construction and onboard experiments. Completing 199 days in space, he landed on October 11, 2009.

STS-133 (February 24 to March 9, 2011). Dr. Barratt served as Mission Specialist on STS-133, the 39th and final mission for Space Shuttle Discovery. He served as lead for Rendezvous and Station Robotics. During the 13-day flight, the Discovery crew delivered the Permanent Multipurpose Module (PMM) and the fourth Express Logistics Carrier (ELC) to the station. The mission's two spacewalks assisted in outfitting the truss of the station and completed a variety of other tasks designed to upgrade station systems. The mission was accomplished in 202 Earth orbits, traveling 5.3 million miles in 307 hours and 3 minutes.

Currently, Dr. Barratt serves in the Mission Support branches providing medical and human factors expertise to multiple spaceflight programs.

Dr. Barratt came to NASA JSC in May 1991 employed as a project physician with KRUG Life Sciences, working on medical systems for Space Station Freedom. In July 1992, he was assigned as NASA Flight Surgeon, working in Space Shuttle Medical Operations. In January 1994, he was assigned to the joint U.S./Russian Shuttle - Mir

# Schedule

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## ONIZUKA SPACE SCIENCE DAY 2022

On the Campus of El Camino College

Saturday, March 12, 2022

- 8:00 to 8:50 a.m.**                      **Registration**  
Marsee Auditorium
- 9:00 - 9:05 a.m.**                      **Welcome from El Camino College**  
Dr. Brenda Thames  
Superintendent/President
- 9:05 - 9:10 a.m.**                      **Introduction from the Astronaut Ellison  
S. Onizuka Memorial Committee**  
Dr. Tim Stowe  
President
- 9:10 - 10:30 a.m.**                      **Keynote Address and Q&A**  
NASA Astronaut Michael Barratt MD
- 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.**                      **Session A**
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**              **Session B**
- 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.**                      **Lunch**
- 12:45 p.m.**                              **Egg Drop Competition**  
(Outside on the East side of the Natural  
Science Building)

# Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka

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# Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka

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## ASTRONAUT ELLISON S. ONIZUKA

June 24, 1946 - January 28, 1986

*“Your vision is not limited by what your eye can see, but by what your mind can imagine. Make your life count - and the world will be a better place because you tried.”*

— Ellison S. Onizuka

Imagine a young boy on a small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, laying on his back, staring at a star-speckled sky, and dreaming. Dreaming of someday going higher than the birds, high enough to reach and touch those distant stars above.

Following this dream, Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka became the first Asian-American astronaut to fly in space and blazed a path that began on that small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean to the heavens above the Earth.

Ellison was born on June 24, 1946, in Kona, Hawaii, a simple rural community. From these humble beginnings, Ellison formulated his dream of venturing into space.

Ellison excelled in school, graduating from Konawaena High School with honors in 1964. He was also active in the 4-H Club, student council, National Honor Society, yearbook, varsity basketball and baseball, and Boy Scouts.

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# Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka

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After graduating from high school, Ellison attended the University of Colorado, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering in 1968, and a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering in 1969. He joined the United States Air Force as a flight engineer in 1970, and attended the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Against stiff competition (8,000 applicants), Ellison was selected in 1978 as one of 35 astronauts for NASA's Space Shuttle Program. He was the first Japanese-American selected to participate in America's space program.

Ellison's dreams came to fruition after years of training and hard work. On January 24, 1985, Ellison first entered space as part of the crew of the space shuttle Discovery - America's first classified manned military space flight. The mission was a success, and Ellison was honored as the first Asian-American astronaut to venture into space.

Soon after, Ellison was selected for Challenger Flight 51-L along with six other crew members: Dick Scobee, Mike Smith, Ronald McNair, Judith Resnik, Greg Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe. The crew of this mission was carefully chosen to reflect the spirit of America. All walks of life,

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# Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka

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backgrounds and regions were represented on this shuttle flight, including elementary school teacher Christa McAuliffe, who would be the first civilian in space. On January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger lifted from the earth. At 11:39 a.m., 73 seconds after liftoff, the orbiter tragically exploded, ending seven lives of ambitions, dreams and courage.

Ellison's story does not end here. In honor of Ellison's memory, the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee was formed by a group of concerned citizens from the Southern California community. The committee initiated this program so that the following message from Astronaut Onizuka would be heard by future generations:

*If I can impress upon you only one idea . . . Let it be that the people who make this world run, whose lives can be termed successful, whose names will go down in the history books, are not the cynics, the critics, or the armchair quarterbacks.*

*They are the adventurers, the explorers, and doers of this world. When they see a wrong or problem, they do something about it. When they see a vacant place in our knowledge, they work to fill that void.*

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# Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka

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*Rather than leaning back and criticizing how things are, they work to make things the way they should be. They are the aggressive, the self-starters, the innovative, and the imaginative of this world.*

*Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds for a look at new worlds . . . to look out from a higher plateau than the last generation.*

*Your vision is not limited by what your eye can see, but by what your mind can imagine. Many things that you take for granted were considered unrealistic dreams by previous generations. If you accept these past accomplishments as commonplace then think of the new horizons that you can explore.*

*Rather than leaning back and criticizing how things are, they work to make things the way they should be. They are the aggressive, the self-starters, the innovative, and the imaginative of this world.*

*Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds for a look at new worlds . . . to look out from a higher plateau than the last generation.*



# Acknowledgments

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## Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee Board of Directors

Dr. Tim Stowe, President	Dan Tani, Vice President
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The Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee gratefully acknowledges our donors and volunteers without whose participation this program would not be possible.

## El Camino College Onizuka Space Science Day Planning Committee

Robin Dreizler  
Dr. Amy Grant  
Dr. Kelsey Iino  
Dr. Jean Shankweiler

# Acknowledgments

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## Institutions

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

El Camino College

NASA Johnson Space Center, Texas

Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc.

## Individuals

Dr. Brenda Thames, Superintendent/President  
El Camino College

Yuki Ikari  
Karin Baker  
Corporate Relations & Social Responsibility  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

Lorna Onizuka (wife of Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka)

Claude Onizuka (brother of Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka)



**ONIZUKA MEMORIAL**  
LITTLE TOKYO, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

## In Memoriam

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Iwao Matt Matsuoka was born on April 14, 1919, in Los Angeles, CA, and passed away peacefully at home on June 18, 2021, at the age of 102.

Matt has served on the Onizuka Memorial Board and was the board's first president.



Dr Larry Moy was born on June 12, 1947 and suddenly passed away on April 11, 2011. Larry was a board member since 2010.

Please keep Matt and Larry in your heart as you enjoy this day.