

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 30, 2004

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GG

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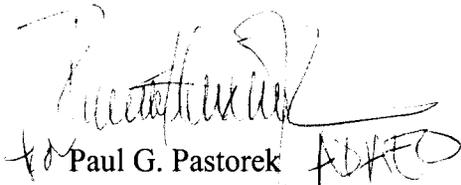
FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Walt Disney World Epcot Center (Disney) Quote Unveiling Ceremony in Honor of the Mars Rover Mission, April 6, 2004

On April 6, 2004, Disney will honor NASA for the success of the recent Mars exploration mission. In recognition of the accomplishments of the men and women of the Mars Rover mission, Disney will add a commemorative quote to the Disney Mission: SPACE attraction. This Disney World attraction provides a close-to-life experience of space travel and exploration. I have determined it to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to attend the quote unveiling ceremony and associated events to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

Currently quotes representing visions of space and mission accomplishments throughout the years of space travel line the walls of the Mission: SPACE attraction. A new historical quote will be added to the wall to mark the continuing success story of NASA and space exploration. Disney has chosen the NASA Administrator's quote, "We're back and we're on Mars," to depict the Rover Missions. Mr. O'Keefe will be the featured speaker during the unveiling ceremony and speak about the success of the Rover Missions, and what they mean to the future of space exploration. In addition to the quote unveiling ceremony, NASA Rover experts will talk to the public about the success and current happenings of the Rover Missions. Guests at Epcot that day, as well as media from across Central Florida will attend the quote unveiling ceremony. The ceremony will offer a wide platform for dissemination of information about the Rover Missions. As such, I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Attendance at this event will provide NASA employees an opportunity to share information about NASA's Mars exploration. I, therefore, conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouse or guests may attend the quote unveiling ceremony at the Walt Disney World Epcot Center Mission: SPACE attraction.

  
Paul G. Pastorek