

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



March 2, 2004

Reply to Attn of: LS01

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/William A. Hicks

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the 16th Annual
Werner Von Braun Memorial Dinner at the Von Braun Center in
Huntsville, Alabama, on March 31, 2004

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g) and 14 CFR 1207.103 (c)(4), and pursuant to a memorandum of delegation to the Chief Counsel dated January 11, 2000, I make the following determination.

It is in the best interest of the Government to permit NASA employees who receive invitations to attend the 16th Annual Dr. Werner von Braun Memorial Dinner hosted by the National Space Club-Huntsville on March 31, 2004, and to do so in their official capacities as representatives of NASA. It is my understanding that the NASA Administrator has been invited to speak at this event and if he is unavailable Adm. Craig E. Steidle, Associate Administrator for the Office of Exploration Systems, has been asked to speak in his stead. The evening will begin with a reception and a cash bar followed by a dinner valued at \$30 per person. Approximately 600 individuals will be invited to attend.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of representatives of Government, the aerospace industry, and community leaders and to honor the memory of Dr. Werner von Braun by recognizing significant achievements in the areas of space exploration, rocketry and astronautics. In light of the importance of this event in honoring the memory of Marshall's first Director and in recognizing those who have made recent achievements in space-related endeavors, I conclude that NASA's interest in having representatives attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may accept the gift of free attendance to the Dr. Werner von Braun Memorial Dinner.


for William A. Hicks
Chief Counsel

cc:

GG/Andrew R. Falcon

CD50/Rosa Kilpatrick