

**2003 NKIS DC Trip
Summary Assessment Report
Bay Area Houston, TX**

On May 5 – 8, 2003, the National Keep It Sold, *Citizens for Space*, a multi-state grassroots space advocacy coalition, conducted its 12th annual Congressional visitation to Washington, DC. During the visitation, NKIS travelers visited 219 House and Senate offices, delivering a grassroots message of support for NASA space initiatives from the community perspective. The NKIS coalition was comprised of travelers representing diverse areas of economic development, education, small business, municipalities, county and municipal government, realty, space- and non space-related industry, and others. The message focused on the benefits of space to citizens and communities through personal and business economic impact, education initiatives, technology development and transfer, as well as current and future science research and development.

The Coalition was supported by Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Partners for Stennis, and Hancock County MS Chamber of Commerce. Various other organizations and business contributed to the success of the trip.

Sixty-four (64) NKIS Texas travelers represented business, education and/or government entities located in Bay Area Houston. Each of the 8 cities in Bay Area Houston were represented, as were both counties:

- ◆ Friendswood
- ◆ Houston
- ◆ League City
- ◆ Kemah
- ◆ Galveston County
- ◆ Nassau Bay
- ◆ Pasadena
- ◆ Seabrook
- ◆ Webster
- ◆ Harris County

Thirteen (13) Texas students and educators attended, representing various Texas educational Institutions. Eight (8) of the students/educators were funded by KIS, with each having prior experience with JSC education programs such as Texas Aerospace Scholars, KC-135, NASA Storefront, ISS uplink, or other programs.

- ◆ College of the Mainland
- ◆ College of the Mainland Foundation
- ◆ Friendswood ISD
- ◆ Hutto ISD
- ◆ Jasper ISD
- ◆ Prairie View A&M
- ◆ Royal Academy
- ◆ San Jacinto College District
- ◆ Strake Jesuit High School
- ◆ Texas Aerospace Academy
- ◆ University of Houston Clear Lake
- ◆ University of Texas at El Paso

A total of ninety-two (92) travelers attended from twelve (12) states, including 17 students and educators, visiting with 219 Members of Congress and/or their staffers experienced in NASA issues:

- ◆ Texas
- ◆ Florida
- ◆ Alabama
- ◆ Mississippi
- ◆ Louisiana
- ◆ North Carolina
- ◆ Illinois
- ◆ Washington
- ◆ Alaska
- ◆ New Mexico
- ◆ Ohio
- ◆ Colorado

Each Member Office received a packet containing a briefing document with information and resources regarding Space Station, Shuttle, Next Generation Launch Technology, SATOP, technology transfer, procurement and grant data, and various other references. A technology transfer screensaver was also distributed.

To maximize the impact of the visitation, specific Members of Congress were selected according to their committee assignments:

- ◆ House Appropriations Committee, specifically VA-HUD Subcommittee members
- ◆ Senate Appropriations Committee, specifically VA-HUD Subcommittee members
- ◆ House Science Committee, specifically Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee members
- ◆ Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, specifically Science, Technology and Space Subcommittee members

Freshman Senators and Representatives were also selected for visits so that the importance of NASA and its programs could be established as a priority for them at an early stage in their legislative careers. The results are as follows:

- ◆ HAC, 62 members with 55 visits conducted
- ◆ SAC, 28 members with 28 visits conducted
- ◆ HSC, 44 members with 38 visits conducted
- ◆ SCC, 23 members with 23 visits conducted
- ◆ Freshman legislators, 9 Senators with 9 visits conducted, and 53 Representatives with 39 visits conducted

As the NKIS travelers conducted each visit and discussed issues with the Members and/or staffers, notes were taken and an evaluation sheet was completed. While reviewing the data, please remember that not each issue was discussed in each office. Rather, a general overview of the important issues was presented, with the discussion being driven by the Member and/or staffer.

	Strong Support	Supports	Neutral	Against	Strongly Against	Not Discussed
NASA Vision	105	13	8			8
Shuttle	94	12	10		1	17
Budget	100	10	12			12
Science	91	12	11		1	11
SLI	91	10	13			12
Overall	102	10	11		1	10

Various comments were made on each issue, and these have been captured for review and follow-up by the appropriate entities. The majority of the comments were in these general categories:

- ◆ Support for NASA/space in general
- ◆ NASA needs to request more money
- ◆ NASA needs a more focused, specific vision and mission
- ◆ Safety is a primary concern
- ◆ Space issues held in abeyance in anticipation of the final report on STS-107
- ◆ Requests for information/visits from NASA administration
- ◆ Concern for NASA budget due to Iraq War and Homeland Security funding issues
- ◆ Many expressed lack of knowledge due to NASA/space not being primary concern of their constituents and/or committees, or because of being a freshman.

Many requests for information were made during the visits, regarding the following categories, which will also be referred for follow-up:

- ◆ SATOP, Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program
- ◆ General technology development and transfer
- ◆ Attending a Shuttle launch when flight is restored
- ◆ NASA's education initiatives
- ◆ More information on NASA and programs in general: several wanted information directly from NASA.

NKIS travelers attended and participated in the SATOP Alliance Partner Appreciation Event, a breakfast held at the Hotel Washington. 160 attended the event, during which Representative Nick Lampson presented awards to the Alliance Partners. NKIS travelers accepted several of the AP awards as representatives of their companies. Boeing, JSC, Lockheed Martin, and SAIC received various awards as SATOP TX Alliance Partners. The SATOP TX Success Story was Mission Technologies, San Antonio, TX. Several SATOP TX Economic Partners participated in the Congressional visits.

To honor and thank the Members of Congress, NKIS held a Congressional Reception in the Montpelier Room of the James Madison Memorial Building, Library of Congress. The Reception venue was secured by The College of the Mainland Foundation (c)(3), Texas City, TX. 125 persons attended the Reception, during which they heard presentations from Representative Nick Lampson (TX), Majority Leader Tom Delay (TX), and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. Other speakers included Representatives Tom Feeney (FL), Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX), Dave Weldon (FL), and Dana Rohrabacher (CA). Representatives Chris Bell (TX) and Bob Allen (FL) were present but did not speak. Nine (9) Staffers attended representing the offices of Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK), and Representatives Nick Lampson (TX), Charles Stenholm (TX), Chris Bell (TX), Bud Cramer (AL), Dave Weldon, (FL), Tom Feeney (FL), and Jennifer Dunn (WA). A professional staffer from the House Space Subcommittee also attended. In addition to NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, NASA Assistant Administrators Courtney Stadd and William Readdy attended, as did representatives from the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP), the National Space Society, the Texas Office of State and Federal Relations, the Texas Aerospace Commission, and Enterprise Florida.

In conclusion, the 2003 NKIS DC Trip was conducted by 92 grassroots citizens from 12 states, representing education, business and industry, and local government entities. These travelers contacted 219 Senators and Representatives, and/or their appropriate staffers, educating and informing them of the benefits of a robust NASA budget for American communities.