



Jerry Hammack  
Picture from July 27, 1987 Blastoff

Jerry was born on May 2nd, 1922 in Randolph County in southwest Georgia. Jerry grew up on the farm of his parents and as a boy he built model airplanes from scratch and became fascinated with the science of flying them; something he did until he passed away.

In 1943 Jerry received a degree in aeronautical engineering from Georgia Tech. He joined the Douglas Aircraft Company and soon was drafted into the Army Air Corps and assigned to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) as an aeronautical research engineer at Langley Field, Virginia. By this time, he had already married his school sweetheart, Adeline and while in Virginia, they had 2 children, Pat and Chuck.

In 1958, the NACA became the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Jerry was among the group of 35 who came to Houston in the early 1960s to establish what became the Johnson Space Center.

As part of his early job assignments Jerry was part of the team that designed the Mercury space capsule used to put the first US Astronaut in Space. He is one of a small group of engineers who share the Mercury capsule patent.

After retiring from NASA, Jerry joined Hernandez Engineering in 1987 as Director of Engineering. He actually retired on a Friday and started to work with us on the following Monday. He then retired after fifteen years with our company due to his illness.

Tery and I have great memories of working with Jerry and traveling all over the world with him and his wife Adeline.

Jerry was president of the Space Center Rotary club in 1968-69 and he was also Tery's sponsor when she joined Rotary in 1990.

Jerry will always be remembered as a very bright and amiable individual. But most of all we remember Jerry as a great friend who will always live in our hearts.

By Club member Mike Hernandez May 4, 2009