

Alabama's Saturn V Rocket Has New Specialty Tag to Aid Restoration

Alabama-Built Moon Rocket Launched 20th Century's Greatest Achievement

Montgomery, AL - The United States Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) announced today that specialty license plates featuring Alabama's Saturn V Moon Rocket are now available at all 67 County License offices.



The colorful tags show the 135,000,000 horsepower rocket with the moon in the background and the words "Alabama – First to the Moon – and beyond." Proceeds from the sale of the tags will go to restoring the original Saturn V Moon Rocket at the Space Center.

"It's a historic day for the State of Alabama and the people of Alabama who built the Saturn V Moon Rocket," said Larry Capps, CEO of the USSRC. "Historians believe that the 20th Century's most historic achievement was the moon landing. Therefore, our Saturn V Moon Rocket may be the 20th Century's most important artifact. It is Alabama's sacred obligation to preserve it for future generations."

The Saturn V Moon Rocket may be the most remarkable man-made machine ever built. Almost 400 feet long, it goes from "zero to outer space" in less than 3 minutes. The top speed of the Saturn is almost 25,000 miles per hour. The Saturn V took 12 men to the moon and launched the Skylab missions – and never had a launch failure.

"Most Alabamians are unaware that Alabama is the State that deserves the most credit for the 20th Century's greatest accomplishment – putting man on the moon," said Saturn V Tag Chairman Ralph Petroff. "Our research revealed that people from all 67 Alabama counties were recruited to work on the project, and no other state sent as many people."

The Saturn V Moon Rocket was designed, managed, built and tested in Alabama. Because of manpower shortages in the early 1950s, engineers were



recruited from all over the State, including the Mobile Shipyards, Alabama Power Company, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. A high percentage of engineers from the 1951-55 graduating classes of Alabama, Auburn and other technical universities in the state also joined in the effort.

“Many of these Alabama engineers who worked on the moon program were GI Bill war veterans, first in their family to go to college,” said Petroff. “The story of Alabama farm boys putting man on the Moon is truly one of the greatest stories never told.”

“Alabama put a man on the moon and we are urging all Alabamians to buy these tags to help us preserve the 20th Century’s most important artifact,” said Capps. “The Saturn V should be a point of pride for everyone in the State. The Saturn V is an enduring and inspiring reminder that if Alabama can put a man on the moon, then Alabama can do anything.”

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(NOTE: The contact for this release is Al Whitaker, Media Relations Manager, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama. 256-721-7160 Email: media@spacecamp.com)

About the Saturn V restoration effort:

Alabama’s Saturn V rocket vehicle, one of only three in existence and the only one listed as a National Historic Landmark and National Mechanical Engineering Landmark, is an eloquent representation of the ability of the Alabama workforce that put mankind on the moon and remains an important educational and public relations asset for the state. In dire need of attention, efforts continue to raise the needed \$5 million to restore the Saturn V, move it to a more prominent location at the USSRC and construct a building over the rocket to protect it from the elements for future generations.

About the USSRC:

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is Alabama’s leading tourist attraction and one of the nation’s premiere space science museums, featuring approximately 1,500 artifacts on display along with many hands-on activities, an IMAX[®] theater and the world’s only space shuttle “stack” display. The USSRC is also home to Space Camp[®] and Aviation Challenge[®], world renowned educational camp programs utilizing space science and military aviation curriculums to provide excitement and encouragement for high-tech career opportunities in science, engineering, mathematics or aviation.