

**TRA's**

No Name

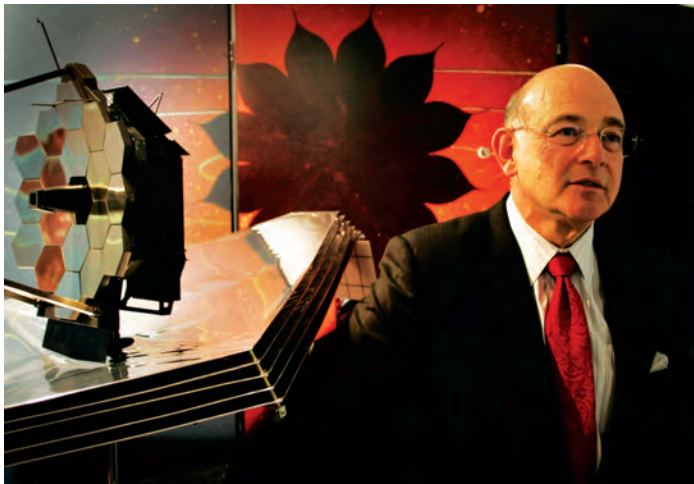
# GAZETTE

**For Northrop Grumman & TRW legacy Retirees**

VOL. XXI NO. 5

July/August 2009

## Northrop Grumman's Ronald Sugar: Quietly in Command



CEO Ron Sugar with model of Northrop Grumman's James Webb Space Telescope. LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTO BY ROBERT LACHMAN, © 2009. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

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**The former whiz kid from South Los Angeles often shuns the limelight. "If you met him on the street, you'd never know he runs one of the world's largest defense companies," a Wall Street analyst says.**

*By Peter Pae*

Much like Northrop Grumman Corp's stealthy B-2 bomber, the company's chief executive has flown under the radar for most of his career overseeing the development of many of the nation's top-secret weapons.

Unassuming and devoid of the cigar-chomping flamboyance that distinguished aerospace executives in the past, Ronald Sugar — a former whiz kid from South Los Angeles — often shuns the limelight.

Yet few in aerospace are as influential to the nation's defense and security.

"If you met him on the street, you'd never know he runs one of the world's largest defense companies," said Paul H. Nisbet, who has been a Wall Street analyst following the aerospace industry since the 1970s. "He is not a silver-spoon executive."

Sugar is in charge of a company with 120,000 employees scattered across 50 states and 25 countries developing and building weapons and technologies that touch virtually every aspect of U.S. military and intelligence operations. It is one of Southern California's largest private employers, with 27,000 workers in the region.

Its satellites keep an eye on North Korean missile silos as its robotic planes hover over Afghanistan looking for Taliban operatives. Its massive aircraft carriers project America's military power overseas as its nuclear-powered submarines covertly roam under the sea. In super-secret hideaways, its technologies eavesdrop on suspected terrorists and its computer networks help run federal agencies.

In the industry's heyday, such a company would have been headed by larger-than-life figures such as billionaire Howard Hughes or firebrands such as Litton Industries' Charles "Tex" Thornton.

But these days Sugar — who looks like a banker, with balding head and eyeglasses — is the epitome of the modern-day aerospace executive, analysts said.

## HAPPENINGS AT NORTHROP GRUMMAN

### Northrop Grumman Corp. (NG)



By Frank Warren

- ▶ LOS ANGELES — July 16, 2009 The board of directors of NG declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.43 per share on NG common stock, payable Sept 12, 2009 to shareholders of record as of the close of business Aug 31, 2009.

### Aerospace Systems Sector

- ▶ EL SEGUNDO, CA — NG played a major role in NASA's development of an alternate astronaut escape system that was successfully demonstrated in a simulated launch abort test. The uncrewed test was part of an assessment by the NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC) of a potential alternate launch abort system concept that could be used for future piloted space-

*Continued on Page 10*

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## TRA for Northrop Grumman Retirees

TRA (The Retirees Association) welcomes the retirees of Northrop Grumman and TRW. The No Name Gazette is our official publication. Our offices are in Building E2 at Space Park

### 2009 OFFICERS

Bob Doll .....President  
 Jack Trost .....Vice President  
 Jack Williams .....Treasurer  
 Bob Beach.....Secretary  
 Budd Cohen.....Immediate Past President

### 2009 DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Darrell Ausherman  
 Ira Green  
 Al Hausrath  
 Les Hromas  
 Bob Rupkey  
 Betty Stover

## By Mail: Contacting TRA

TRA, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
**By Phone:**

310-813-7745 (Our office is staffed only a few days a week. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.)

### By E-mail:

[TRA@tra-spacepark.org](mailto:TRA@tra-spacepark.org) Your e-mails will be routed to the appropriate source. And, if we have your e-mail address on file, we send out special alerts at infrequent intervals. To get on the TRA e-mail list, just send us a brief e-mail requesting to be added to it.

### By Web Page:

Our web page is at [www.tra-spacepark.org](http://www.tra-spacepark.org). It is an excellent source for the latest news, lists of the new retirees, travel details, party photos (more than get into the NNG), forms of all sorts, personal photographs, and much more. Come in and browse.

### For Membership:

TRA Membership is open to all Northrop Grumman and TRW legacy retirees at \$7 per calendar year. First year free. Application on web page or call 310-813-7745 and leave a message.

# NG/TRW Retiree Meetings Around the U.S.

| GROUP                      | MEETING LOCATION                            | TIME & DATE                          | OTHER INFO  | CONTACT   |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| TRA                        | Bldg. S Park Patio Cafe, Space Park         | 3rd Thurs. Monthly                   | Business Meeting 1:30 p.m. E2, Rm 1200.   | No reservations needed. All Members Welcome                             |
| ATD                        | Alpine Village, Torrance, CA                | 11:40 a.m. 1st Monday in November    | Social, Nostalgia and Lunch   | Don Brown, Sandy Friedfeld, Bob Traylor 310-541-1917 or sandjol@aol.com |
| Brevard Retirees           | Various Locations in Brevard, NC            | 1st Tues. 8 a.m.<br>3rd Tues. 5 p.m. | Social  | Al & Daughn Connarn 828-884-4993 aconnarn@yahoo.com                     |
| Central Coast Chapter      | Various Locations in the Central Coast Area | 2nd Monday<br>Various times          | Social  | George Zaiser 805-343-2631 gzais@msm.com                                |
| Huntsville Chapter         | Call for Location (It's Complicated!)       | 2nd Tuesday<br>11:30 a.m.            | Social  | Jim Troy 256-534-7136 troys@comcast.net                                 |
| Las Vegas                  | Various Locations in Las Vegas Metro Area   | Last Tuesday<br>11:30 a.m.           | Social  | Carol Noblet 702-889-6773 fiftysumthn@aol.com                           |
| Northern Virginia          | JR's Stockyard Inn, McLean, VA              | 3rd Friday<br>11:30 a.m.             | Social  | Bill Gehrke 703-759-0527 wgehrke@att.net                                |
| Ogden                      | Cracker Barrel Restaurant Layton, UT        | 1st Thursday<br>Breakfast            | Social  | Fred Zeuthen 801-476-0656 fzeuthen@earthlink.net                        |
| San Bernardino             | San Bernardino Golf Club                    |                                      | Social plus programs of interest  | Joe Daruty 909-792-8022 jdaruty@aol.com                                 |
| San Diego Chapter          | Event Dependent                             | 3rd Tuesday                          | Social or Board Meeting <a href="http://sandiego.tra-spacepark.org">http://sandiego.tra-spacepark.org</a> | Jim Denton 858-385-0150 JWDenton@sbcglobal.net                          |
| Temecula Valley            | Crivello's Restaurant Wildomar, CA          | Third Wednesday<br>Lunch             | Social  | Maureen Locken 951-244-7654 maureen_locken@yahoo.com                    |
| The Mountain Folks         | Various Locations in the Denver Area        | First week of each quarter           | "We do have fun!"   | Carl Wikelman 303-693-0034 winkelman@att.net                            |
| TRIN                       | Bldg E2, Room 1200 Space Park               | 2nd Thursday<br>2:00 p.m.            | Investment Info based on monthly newsletter reviews   | Mike Pauls 310-379-2707 lmikep@earthlink.net                            |
| TRW Retirees of the Desert | Sloan's Steak House Indio, CA               | Every Tuesday<br>1:00 p.m.           | Social and Nostalgia <a href="http://trwdesertretirees.blogspot.com">trwdesertretirees.blogspot.com</a>   | Joe Clopton 760-342-8171 joeclopton@dc.rr.com                           |
| The Ventura County Romeos  | Du-Pars Thousand Oaks, CA                   | 1st Tuesday<br>12:00 noon            | Social  | Fred Blaich 805-499-0012 harrison_stroud@hotmail.com                    |

# TRAVel News

Summer and Fall, 2009

**Cruise: From \$849.00 plus taxes for balcony suite on Star Princess. Does not include air, insurance or (maybe) fuel surcharge. Jay Seidman, 818-343-5171**

October 20-22, 2009

## Laughlin

Betty Kay Addis 310-379-6988

We would appreciate it if you would contact the identified coordinator for more information. For comments or suggestions, including specific destinations or events, please contact Jay Seidman at 818-343-5171 or jayandjerry@sbcglobal.net.

**Neither smoking nor alcoholic beverages are permitted upon our buses.**

**The Travel Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in E2/1200.**

Fall 2009

## Danube River Cruise

Prague (2), Nuremberg (2), board river cruiser, Regensburg (1), Passau-Linz (1), Melk-Vienna (2), Budapest (1). Disembark Budapest next day. Includes tours in Prague, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Melk, Vienna and Budapest. Open seating with wine at on-board dinners. Buffet breakfast in Prague and all meals on board. Does not include air, transfers or insurance. **Jay Seidman, 818-343-5171**

October 2009

## Las Vegas

Tom Tucknott, 310-530-4882

## First Sergeant Blue Charles Rowe

May 22, 1970 — May 20, 2009



BLUE CHARLES ROWE WAS NOT A NORTHROP GRUMMAN RETIREE, BUT TRA HONORS HIM. HIS BRIEF SERVICE AT NORTHROP GRUMMAN WAS COMPLEMENTED BY HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.

Blue was born in Claremore, Oklahoma, on May 22, 1976. He attended Siloam Springs High School where he played football and was a long-distance runner for the Panthers. He was known for dedication to his team and his ability to give everything he had when he competed. Blue loved sports, and was often seen wearing his favorite team's T-shirt, the Arkansas Razorbacks.

When Blue graduated from Siloam Springs High in 1994 he immediately enlisted into the United States Army. Blue married his wife Cindy in 1999 after meeting her while serving in Croatia 2 years earlier. In 2001, their son Andrew was born. Family members described him as a devoted father, loving husband, caring son, and a selfless soldier. He touched many people's lives, and was loved by all.

Blue C. Rowe entered the Army in May 1994, and served as a Military Policeman until 2002. He served in Korea, Germany, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. From 2002 to 2009, he was in the Army Reserve as a Civil Affairs Noncommissioned Officer, Civil Affairs Team Leader and First Sergeant. He was assigned to the 426<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, Company D, Airborne Special Operations, Upland, California. He was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in September 2004.

Employed by Northrop Grumman in 2005 as a Lock and Key administrator, he was responsible for maintaining all Lock and Key databases, classified combination records, and department statistics and metrics. He also coordinated requests for Lock and Key support. As a Physical Security Specialist, Blue helped plan and design classified work areas. He provided statements of work for construction and alarms, administered area approval request to various customers and maintained all Underwriters Laboratory certifications for alarm systems protecting classified areas. He served as a member of the Security Diversity Council.

Blue graduated in 2008 from Rio Hondo College, Whittier, CA with an AS degree in Liberal Arts.

He was again mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom in July 2008. He lost his life in Panjshir, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2009.

Blue was a recipient of over a dozen military medals, as well as other ribbons and badges. His posthumous awards include the Combat Action Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal.

## TRW's Business Mafia

*A look-back by Joe Larkin*

For all the early years of STL the organization was essentially one profit center (five Divisions and two major off-sites, San Bernardino & Washington) with a single set of indirect rates. There were the usual staff functions of Accounting, HR, etc., but no Business Administration staff.

The Division Business Managers joined together unofficially to fill that void and to establish and sustain consistent and effective practices throughout the organization. Over the years the "Mafia" grew to include Paul Fryar, Con Carver, Gerry Geismar, Lou Petroni, Chuck Ulrich, Ed McAuliffe, George Savignac, and me.

They were, and are, a most compatible group that worked together quietly and below the radar. One of their common interests was, and is, good wine. This interest was important in dealing with Dr. Ed Doll, a true wine connoisseur and the man who controlled the financial purse strings and resources of the profit center. In later years, Fred Seelig and Dick Mulligan joined the "Mafia" as ex officio members. They too enjoyed the good wine and trips to Reno and Las Vegas where Dick excelled on the green felt, and in Reno where Fred was barred from playing Black Jack, because of his "card counting" capabilities. This "Mafia" is still active and occasionally can be seen where fine wine is served.

I recently learned that Tom Wallace died on February 23, 2009. Tom is survived by wife Margaret, two daughters and a very special grandson, Charlie.

Tom Wallace received his MBA from Stanford and joined TRW in 1956. When I came to TRW in 1967, Tom was the Division Business Manager for ESD and reported to Henry Samulon. In 1977 Tom followed Paul Glaser to TTI (a wholly owned subsidiary of CitiBank) where TTI developed the very first ATM. After retirement he enjoyed life in South Pasadena and was a huge Dodger supporter. While Tom was not a TRW retiree he nevertheless left large footprints.

Tom was a friend and mentor to me and to hundreds of others in the Business Management family. He, along with Howie Wong, Dan Mc Nabb, Don Lynch and Roger Orman were the founding fathers of the famous (some would say infamous) "Business Mafia."

The No Name Gazette is the official publication of TRA. It is published seven times a year,

Staff:

Al Hausrath, Editor.

Bob Crowe, Roving Reporter.

Frank Warren, Contributing Editor

Tom Carroll, Kathy Hanken, Roger Harmon, Mary Holcomb, and Del Suarez, Photographers.

Lee Rathbone, Athena Christe, and Karin Petersen, Copy Editors.

## New TRA Members in 2009

*Reported by Jack Trost, Membership Chairman*

We welcome the following new members who have joined TRA this year. (As of July 20)

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Herbert O. Asbury  | Santa Maria, CA         |
| Alan S. Awane      | Torrance, CA            |
| Edward Banales     | Hawthorne, CA           |
| Katy Banales       | Hawthorne, CA           |
| Jim Burnett        | Rancho Palos Verdes, CA |
| Gerald Caillier    | Gardena, CA             |
| Diana Cowell       | Boise, ID               |
| Paul W. Davis      | Los Angeles, CA         |
| Michael R. Drake   | Melbourne, FL           |
| George R. Dvorsky  | Manhattan Beach, CA     |
| Michael L. Edwards | Mesilla Park, NM        |
| Ginny Frazier      | Torrance, CA            |
| Kealoha L. Garrett | East Wenatchee, WA      |
| Amy W. Graham      | Redondo Beach, CA       |
| Vernon B. Gregory  | Melbourne, FL           |
| Betty F. Hashimoto | Torrance, CA            |
| Ed Hibsman         | Rancho Palos Verdes, CA |
| Robert H. Julian   | Oroville, CA            |
| Janice Lipinski    | Torrance, CA            |
| Pete D. Lohn       | Torrance, CA            |
| Louise McDowell    | North Ogden, UT         |
| Walter J. Mirczak  | Redondo Beach, CA       |
| Gary A. Moir       | Rancho Palos Verdes, CA |
| Carole Okamoto     | Kasilof, AK             |
| Richard V. Pirnat  | Hawthorne, CA           |
| Dwight W. Roberts  | Spring Hill, TN         |
| Eleanor Smith      | Los Osos, CA            |
| Madonna Stonick    | Palm Desert, CA         |
| Werner Szilas      | Hawthorne, CA           |
| Karen L. Solomon   | Boise, ID               |
| Tony K. Tam        | Manhattan Beach, CA     |
| Hund V. Tran       | Carson, CA              |
| Richard Trott      | Torrance, CA            |
| Rita R. Trott      | Torrance, CA            |
| Patricia A. Weber  | Hermosa Beach, CA       |
| Paul K. Wood       | Long Beach, CA          |
| Joseph E. Woods    | Los Angeles, CA         |
| Patsy Woodson      | Redondo Beach, CA       |

TRA members are invited to our three annual reunions: the Summer Annual Meeting held at Space Park, a holiday party usually at the Ports O' Call restaurant, and a Spring Fling held in honor of Alice Lord at the Proud Bird restaurant. Specific group retirees' meetings held throughout the United States are listed in the NNG.

In addition to these meetings, there are other ways to become involved in TRA activities. Available to work on the Archives? TRA retirees are always needed to catalog and file the archives of the company's past activities which are located in the TRA office (E2/B114). That busy group meets on Wednesdays at Space Park.

Like to help with parties? Our Activities Committee can always use your help.

TRA does not receive the names of NG retirees, so if you know of fellow retirees who would be interested in joining TRA, just drop an email ([membership@tra-spacepark.org](mailto:membership@tra-spacepark.org)) or note to TRA (P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278).



# Vacation Cruise Options

By Jay Seidman

Let me explain how I feel about cruising and the pluses and minuses of the different types:

## The Big Ships

There are lots of big ships, carrying between 450 and 4000 passengers, in various grades of cabins (from inside with no windows to miniature houses with individual pools and servants). They really are floating resorts and seem to be making every effort to compete with destinations like Las Vegas. From a plus point of view they offer many activities on board, from exercise rooms, spas, rock-climbing, golf, gambling, bingo, bridge, and formal activities, along with "Broadway" types of entertainment. They have many restaurants with some charging extra. There will be at least one swimming pool and many occasions when they will suggest other activities, including shore excursions, at additional costs. Since they are so large, they stop at only the larger ports, and generally this happens when other cruise ships are in port (and you probably will be inundated with other ship's cruise passengers). The ship generally does not stay long at any given port since people like to say that they have been to many countries on their cruise. Remember, all that you usually can do is either take their shore excursion, or be limited to the area near the dock. Small ports, like those in Alaska, allow you to do most of the shore sight-seeing by yourself. The major objections I have to the big ships are that there are a lot of people, it just doesn't seem relaxing (unless you go on one with less than 600 passengers), and you get only a fleeting feel for the countries at which the ship docks.

## The River Boats

River boats are generally found in Europe since the countries developed around the rivers. The boats usually have about 100-150 passengers, some sort of entertainment (maybe a trio), and a few will have gambling. Food is generally on a par with that of the big ships but accommodations are smaller, although quite adequate. The big advantage that these "boats" have is that they dock in the middle of cities, so even if you take the shore excursion offered by the ship, you won't spend an inordinate amount of time going to and from the sights. In many cases, you may explore on your own. There are fewer of these cruises, although they are growing in availability. It is almost impossible to get sea-sick since you are only on a river. One problem I experienced on one river cruise was that about half of the passengers belonged to a group, so all the rest of us (strangers to one another) kind of felt left out. Because of the size of the boat most of your activity is self-generated since the facilities are limited. In general, people start out on the big ships and then progress(?) to the river boats.

## The Barges

Barges are even smaller – usually they carry 12-20 passengers. They are limited to canals or small waterways, usually are in Europe, and in the 5-7 days of their "cruise" may cover 40 miles. They usually do not cruise at night, since they are docked in the middle of town (usually small) and when they are cruising along the canal, you can walk alongside or even take a bicycle and wander around the countryside. There is usually a chef on board and since the group is small you get to know each other quite well. It's very low key and relaxing – you can do what you want – no pressures and very few time constraints.

So, now you have an idea of why we picked a river boat cruise on the Danube as an example. (See Page 3) It gives an opportunity to see relatively strange countries, allows time before and after the cruise to do further travel in Prague, or Austria, or really, anywhere in Europe. The problem we have at the TRA travel committee is that the lead time between the publication of the NNG and the deposited reservations to hold space on the advertised trip is short. However, in today's environment, prices are fluid and sometimes they become even better as time goes on. I picked Globus (Avalon) because: (a) I've worked with them for years, (b) sometimes I can get a Senior Citizen discount, and (c) with 8 or 10 passengers we sometimes get a discount.

There are lots of cruises and lots of ships. Questions you should ask yourselves are: what kind of a cruise do you want, what are the time and money constraints, and what are the specific places you want to see?

*Good cruising. Jay*

### Important Contacts for Retirees

#### Northrop Grumman Benefits Center

[www.benefits.northropgrumman.com](http://www.benefits.northropgrumman.com)

Select "Retiree Connection"

Or by phone: 800-894-4194

Here you can get help on health benefits, pensions, savings, and to report a death. It's all voice activated, so just listen to the instructions and answer the first few questions to reach a representative.

#### Express Scripts (Rx)

[www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)

800-655-1971

#### Northrop Grumman Benefits Services (Space Park)

800-537-7694

One Space Park, S/2451  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278



# Summer Annual Meeting

## June 6, 2009

This was our first Summer Annual Meeting under our new organization at Northrop Grumman, the Space Systems Division, and its new leader, V. P. and General Manager David DiCarlo. He addressed the large group of retirees and guests, discussing the many exciting programs under way both at Space Park and the other Space Systems sites throughout the country. These photos are by Mary Holcomb (M) and Roger Harmon (R). To see all their fine photos, visit our web page at [www.tra-spacepark.org](http://www.tra-spacepark.org).



Tim Galvin



Robert & Shirlye Brennan



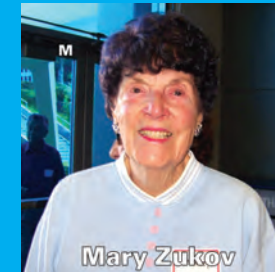
Roger Harmon, Margaret Calen, Millie Blazejack



Sol & Janette Lutwak



Wilma & Don Andree



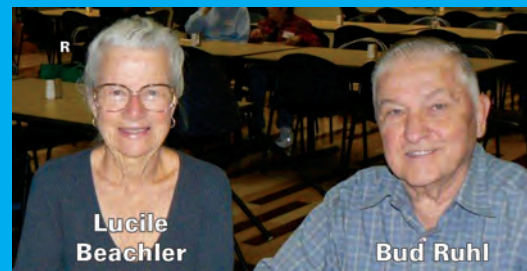
Mary Zukov



Bill Buck



Fran Paxson



Lucile Beachler, Bud Ruhl



Harry Keches



WELCOME TRIP RETIREES 06/06/2009



Allan Strayer



Rich & Kathy Downey



Jack Kropp



Joann Kropp



Ralph, Tak Ishimoto



Rita & John Fink, Stan Johnson



Marcie & Hector Nadal



VP David DiCarlo, General Manager, Space Systems Div.



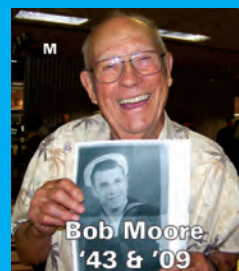
Yo & Eileen Wakamiya



Nora & Ed Hibsman



Lee & Tony Janik



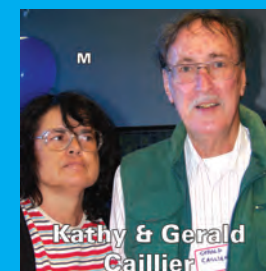
Bob Moore '43 & '09



Jack & Arlene Davis



John Kravagna



Kathy & Gerald Caillien



Dick Klein



Sharon Boyer



David Hribar



Jerry Slee, Jay Seidman



Some of our Activities Committee: John Coughran, Roc Venegas, Marcy Morrison & Nicki Noble



Dick Gloor



Betty Jackman



Hortencia & Bob Beck



Ann Boehmer & Carol Schamp



Irene Dickstein, Geoff Green



Bob Rupkey, David DiCarlo, Ginny Frazier, Jack Williams



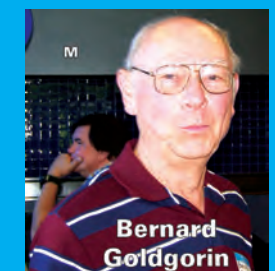
Bob & Paula Hall



Alex & Ivy Egger



Kat Reed, Darryl Heath



Bernard Goldgorin



Brenda Haly, Barbara Herold, Sonya Moses



Ed & Henriette Burchman



Dave & Valerie Dingwall



## Northrop Grumman's Ronald Sugar: Quietly in Command

*Continued from Page 1*

"He is subdued and thoughtful rather than outspoken and colorful," said Loren Thompson, a longtime defense policy analyst for the Lexington Institute. "The industry has had its fill of cowboys. What it needs now are calm, analytical people, and Sugar fits that mode."

Northrop, like other defense firms, is facing significant turbulence after nearly a decade of growth. Wall Street is mixed on whether Sugar can steer the company through what is expected to be a protracted slowdown in Pentagon spending. Analysts said his legacy might hinge on how well Northrop adjusts to new realities of shrinking defense budgets.

Sugar, 60, oversees the \$34-billion defense empire from a Century City high-rise that offers a sweeping view of L.A.

Looking out toward Los Angeles International Airport, he can make out Northrop's sprawling F/A-18 fighter-jet plant in El Segundo. Just to the south, there is the company's Space Park in Redondo Beach, where his engineers work in secrecy developing spy satellites.

From his large yet sparsely decorated office, Sugar also has an unobstructed view of his past and a reminder of how far he has come. In the hazy distance, Sugar can make out the South Los Angeles neighborhood where he grew up helping his parents run a beauty salon. In the hills at the opposite end is his current home in Bel-Air.

### Publicity shy

Publicity shy, Sugar rarely talks about growing up in one of Los Angeles' tougher neighborhoods.

Born in Toronto, Sugar moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1954. His parents, both high school dropouts from Canada, ran the beauty shop, near Western Avenue and Century Boulevard, after driving to California in an old Ford sedan. It took nine days, recalled Sugar, who was barely 6 at the time.

Although his parents never graduated from high school, having had to work because of the Great Depression, Sugar said he grew up in an intellectually stimulating household. His father excelled in math and always had the desire to be an engineer but "never had the educational opportunity to do it."

When Sugar turned 12 and was about to begin high school, the family moved to a home a few blocks from Northrop's aircraft-making factory on Crenshaw Boulevard

The neighborhood was "tough," Sugar said. Though gunfights were rare, teens wielding knives were not unusual, he said.

### The smartest kid

But among his classmates at Leuzinger High School, there was little doubt that Sugar would go far, though few would know how far.

"He was definitely the brightest person around," said Linda Lisiecki, a classmate who was in many of the "gifted" classes with Sugar.

He was also somewhat of an oddity. Baby-faced and nearly three years younger than most of his classmates, Sugar often found himself trying to talk his way out of scuffles with physically larger classmates.

Report-card days were the worst, Sugar recalled. "The one thing that you don't want to do is have someone pull your report card out of your pocket and find you had straight A's."

He often tried running away, but, Sugar said, "I quickly discovered I wasn't a fast runner."

Sugar said being roughed up provided an invaluable experience that became useful as he climbed up the corporate ladder.

"You certainly learn how to deal with adverse situations and you learn how to handle yourself," he said. As the smartest kid in school, Sugar was voted the "most likely to succeed" and later was the valedictorian for the graduating class of 1965.

According to his high school yearbook, Sugar was not only the youngest graduate that year but also was a consummate nerd. The 1965 "Pylon" lists Sugar as having been a president of the school's geekiest groups, including the math club, the band and the scholarship society, and he was captain of the academic quiz team.

### Valerie Higuchi

There seemed to be only one other student who could rival Sugar academically, a sophomore from Hawthorne who would later become his wife. Valerie Higuchi would graduate two years after Sugar, also as a valedictorian.

Valerie's father, Tamotsu "Tom" Higuchi, had served with the famed "Go for Broke" U.S. Army unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, during World War II. The Japanese American unit was the most decorated during the war.

While her father fought in Europe, Valerie's mother lived in an Arkansas internment camp. After the war, the Higuchis returned to Hawthorne.

"We grew up in a blue-collar neighborhood. But his parents and mine were very bright people, and in today's world they would have gone to college," Valerie Sugar said.

The couple had met when Valerie was in sixth grade, and according to Valerie they officially began dating when she was in ninth grade.

After high school, Sugar attended El Camino College in Torrance because his parents couldn't afford a four-year university.

But Sugar would excel, and he was offered full scholarships to Caltech and UCLA. Figuring Valerie was likely to go to UCLA, he gave up Caltech for Westwood.

*Continued on Page 9*

## Northrop Grumman's Ronald Sugar: Quietly in Command

*Continued from Page 8*

"We tell everybody that if our children made a similar decision, we would have been all over them." Valerie Sugar said.

The couple married in 1971 shortly after Valerie graduated from UCLA. They have two grown children; the older one, a son, graduated from Princeton University, and their daughter is a Dartmouth graduate.

There was little doubt that Sugar was among the brightest even at a time when the industry was attracting the nation's best minds as the Cold War ratcheted up the development of sophisticated weapons.

He would rise quickly through the ranks at TRW Inc., becoming at 35 the chief engineer for the development of the payload for the nation's first major military communications satellite system, known as Milstar. "They said I was too young to run it so they made me the chief engineer," Sugar recalled.

"I knew he was outstanding, so I knew he would move up the company rapidly," said Simon Ramo, co-founder of TRW and the father of the nation's ballistic-missile system.

Ramo, one of the last remaining so-called cowboys of aerospace, who retired from TRW in 1978, said "everybody wanted to hire Sugar."

A top post seemed only a matter of time, but Sugar, who had been at TRW for more than 20 years, was passed over as a possible successor to then-Chairman Joseph T. Gorman in 2000. He bolted for another company, Litton Industries in Woodland Hills.

The move would turn out to be timely. Northrop Grumman, on an acquisition spree, purchased Litton a year later in a deal that placed Sugar in line to be Northrop's CEO. Northrop then capped its spending spree by acquiring TRW.

In 2003, Sugar was named chairman and CEO of Northrop Grumman, succeeding Kent Kresa, who had rebuilt an aerospace company teetering toward bankruptcy. In the early 1990s, Pentagon contracts had dried up as the Cold War ended, leaving Northrop with one major program, the B-2.

### Defensive moves

Since taking the helm, Sugar has focused most of his attention on integrating the companies that had been acquired over the years and looking at expanding the company internally. Northrop, which generated \$7 billion in annual revenue in 2000, could surpass \$35 billion this year.

But Northrop and the defense industry are about to face some head winds as the Pentagon looks at cutting back on big-ticket weapon programs.

Sugar has said Northrop is in a better position than other defense companies because it isn't dependent on any one big Pentagon program. The company is involved in more than 20,000 programs, with no single contract

accounting for more than 3% of annual revenue. Still, with the anticipated slowdown, Sugar has been urging Northrop managers to expand the company's engineering know-how to commercial and civil markets.

Sugar has taken some political hits for partnering with a European defense contractor to build a new generation of aerial refueling tankers for the U.S. Air Force and has been embarrassed by development problems in shipbuilding.

He was somewhat vindicated when Northrop upset heavily favored Boeing Co. last year for the \$35-billion aerial refueling tanker contract. But that award was overturned and the Air Force has been forced to hold another competition.

Northrop's growth has come while other defense contractors have been embroiled in controversy and scandals. The company, for the most part, seems to have avoided major ethical breaches. Still, ethical conduct has been one of Sugar's main management concerns. Senior managers are required to take ethics classes once a year.

Steven Sample, president of USC, where Sugar has been a trustee since 2003, said the Bruin alumnus is highly respected even among die-hard Trojans.

"I really like the person and I think he has very high ethical standards," Sample said. "You always run the risk of being embarrassed by someone who goes off in an unethical direction. I can't imagine Ron Sugar doing that."

A registered Republican, Sugar has given more in campaign contributions to Democrats, reflecting the cold calculation that defense spending decisions can depend on politicians on both sides. His strongest trait has been a personable one-on-one management style that he has tried to convey to his managers, according to former and current employees.

In a recent annual gathering of several hundred Northrop managers, Sugar walked into the ballroom and without explanation began playing the piano. After playing a classical piece for about five minutes, he got up and began talking about how he enjoyed playing the piano and shared other personal details.

"It was very leveling," said Barry Z. Pozner, dean of the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University and co-author of *A Leader's Legacy*, a management book that cites Sugar. "People would later come up to him and have a personal conversation. It was another way to get connected with people."

The point of the exercise, Sugar would say, "is that if people were going to follow you, they need to know more about you than the fact that you are their boss. They need to know your hopes, dreams, talents and expectations."

Leadership, Sugar said, "is personal."



## HAPPENINGS

craft. The test occurred at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, VA. NASA's Constellation Program is designing the Orion crew exploration vehicle, Ares launch vehicles, and Altair Lunar Lander that will return humans to the moon to live and work. The Orion launch abort system offers a proven method of pulling the crew out of danger in the event of an emergency on the launch pad or during the climb to Earth orbit. The alternate system, called the Max Launch Abort System (MLAS), could deliver aerodynamic performance benefits, weight savings, and be relatively simple in some spacecraft applications. The demonstration vehicle consists of a full-scale composite fairing, a full-scale crew module simulator, and four solid rocket abort motors mounted in the boost skirt with motor mass simulators in the forward fairing. NG developed and produced the composite fairing, fins, drag plates, and motor cage structure. Company personnel based in Wallops Island, VA, performed structures and mechanism assembly and supported the vehicle integration and flight test. The prototype in the test was used to evaluate the means to safely propel a spacecraft and its crew from an errant rocket. It represents a departure from the tower launch abort system used during Apollo launches and retained for the NASA Constellation Program. The MLAS test was primarily a demonstration of unpowered flight along a stable trajectory, vehicle reorientation and stabilization, followed by crew module simulator separation from the MLAS fairing, stabilization, and parachute recovery of the crew module simulator

► SAN DIEGO, CA — An NG-developed MQ-8B Fire Scout Vertical Takeoff and Landing Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VTUAV) testing in the U.S. provided a real-time video feed of electro-optical/infrared sensor (EO/IR) imagery to participants at the Paris Air Show recently. The video feed was provided by a U.S. Navy aircraft flying from the Webster Annex of NAS Patuxent River, MD. The aircraft operated in a maritime training area the week of June 15 and was able to provide real-time, continuous streaming imagery of selected areas on the Chesapeake Bay and on the shoreline of Southern Maryland. Additionally, as a test of Fire Scout's communications relay capability, the U.S. Coast Guard operated a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) as a primary target on the water and the Air Vehicle Operator (AVO)

*Continued from Page 1*

communicated directly to the RHIB via Fire Scout. The air vehicle was commanded to "Clear Voice Relay" with one radio on an approved unused UHF frequency and the other radio was set to the Maritime Band. This configuration allowed direct communication between the AVO ashore and the RHIB operating on the water. Utilizing a FLIR Systems Inc. BriteStar II that includes EO/IR with laser rangefinder/designator, the MQ-8B Fire Scout can find and identify tactical targets, track and designate targets, accurately provide targeting data to strike platforms, and perform battle damage assessment.

### Electronic Systems Sector (NGES)

► LINTHICUM, MD — NG has announced that it successfully demonstrated key electronic protection capabilities of the F-35 Lightning II's AN/APG-81 radar during the recent Northern Edge 2009 (NE09) joint military exercise. The NG AN/APG-81 active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar was flown on board the company's BAC 1-11 test aircraft and was integrated into what is considered the United States' largest and most complex airborne electronic warfare exercise to date. Northrop Grumman demonstrated the electronic protection capabilities of the AN/APG-81 by successfully countering advanced electronic attacks, which are intended to degrade, neutralize, or destroy friendly combat capability. The AN/APG-81 radar is undergoing integrated avionics flight testing aboard the Lockheed Martin Cooperative Avionics Test Bed (CATBird) aircraft, and is being installed in production F-35s on the aircraft assembly line in Fort Worth, Texas.

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"Shame is the feeling you have when you agree with the woman who loves you that you are the man she thinks you are." Carl Sandburg, American Poet

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## MORE MAIL POUCH

*Continued from Page 12*

travelling, with a trip to Dubai to celebrate Vincent's 92<sup>nd</sup>◆◆◆What could possibly draw a couple from Orange County to Northern CA? G'kids and g'g'kids, of course. **Shirley** and **Herman Meyer** did that in 2003, and celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> the same year. Herman died in '06 at age 92, but Shirley, just a kid at 86, is enjoying life in Novato, CA. "*Life has been good to me!*"◆◆◆Another happy retiree — **A.O. Smith**, in love with: Retirement; Cocoa Beach, FL; his 3 bedroom Oceanfront Condo; and Being Single. Does NOT miss work! "*And now I can visit Cuba!*"◆◆◆And the most footloose of all, **Jay Nesbit**. He lives and travels full time in a 38 foot motor home, winters in AZ, spring and fall in UT, and summers in CO. When not motoring between states, he is off-road rock climbing in his 2001 Jeep Wrangler, "*highly modified for extreme offroad-ing.*" Jay does not agree with A.O. Smith, and although single, would like to change that◆◆◆**Al** and **Bonnie Miller** confirm **Jay Seidman's** comments (See story on Page 5) that a European Riverboat cruise is "*highly recommended.*" They just did the Rhine, Main, and Danube rivers, before returning to home in Ft. Mohave, AZ◆◆◆Update on **Bob Crowe**. He just (July 20<sup>th</sup>) had some artificial veins inserted in his good leg to improve the blood circulation. (The other leg was done previously, but the surgery was not completely successful.) This condition makes it difficult for Bob to stand or even sit for very long; he must keep his legs elevated. During Bob's 27 years at Space Park, he had many occasions to meet **Sam Abrams**. But both Sam and Bob have similar tastes in food, for they now run into each other during Bob's occasional forays to the local Trader Joe's in Manhattan Beach◆◆◆Congratulations to **Elaine** and **Frank Polaski** for their big 60<sup>th</sup> last December. Five generations of his family were represented at this affair◆◆◆"*Think! I took my first ride in an ambulance last year at age 75.*" Now the painful news that detracted from any possible enjoyment of an ambulance ride: **Joy Waites** fell backwards down some steps, breaking her pelvis in three places. Treatment for this is just bed rest and pain medication. Her daughter from Fort Wayne, IN, came for two months to help her recover. The gardener in Joy also suffered as she watched her flower beds turn into weeds. The good news: she is now fine, will be selling her house in Hatton, ND, and moving to Ft. Wayne◆◆◆**Jan Kubota**, writing for her 90 year old father, **Kazuo**, reports that her dad is proud of his work at TRW, especially that relating to the moon landing. "*It was a great company to work for.*"◆◆◆

## IN MEMORIAM

| Name                   | Date of Death      |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Arnold R. Anchordoguy* | February 20, 2009  |
| Larry Atherly          | June 13, 2009      |
| Walter P. Bahrke       | June 28, 2009      |
| Clarence Beverforden   | November 10, 1999  |
| Robert R. Blessing*    | June 9, 2009       |
| Karen M. Brown         | June 27, 2009      |
| Robert L. Bruce        | March 10, 2009     |
| Richard L. Bruckwick   | May 31, 2009       |
| Erwin Fishman          | June 9, 2009       |
| John F. Johnson        | June 2, 2009       |
| Raymond M. Lampa       | May 17, 2009       |
| Marvin L. Luther       | June 29, 2009      |
| Robert S. Margulies    | July 5, 2009       |
| Larry E. McGauley Sr.  | June 14, 2009      |
| Samuel Mellos          | April 28, 2009     |
| Betty R. Numes         | June 7, 2009       |
| Blue Charles Rowe      | May 20, 2009       |
| George Lewis Slentz*   | May 18, 2009       |
| Vernon J. Smith        | December 4, 2008   |
| Shiva Subramanya       | January 7, 2009    |
| Thomas Wallace         | February 23, 2009  |
| John (Jack) Wiles      | December 3, 2008   |
| F. Duane Wilson        | September 27, 2006 |
| Glenn C. Wiprud        | May 28, 2009       |

\*Check TRA's web page ([www.tra-spacepark.org](http://www.tra-spacepark.org)) for the obituary of this individual. Scroll down to near the bottom of the web page and you will find "In Memoriam." Inside this section are the obituaries.

The first step in notifying Northrop Grumman of a retiree's death is to call the Benefits Service Center at 800-894-4194. For many retirees, there is a Burial Benefit which will be paid to the beneficiary upon proper notification of death. However, due to privacy laws, the Benefits Center does NOT notify the TRA of the death.

If you know of a deceased retiree that should be included in the "In Memoriam" column in future NNGs, please submit the following by mail or e-mail to the TRA office: name of the deceased; date of death; and name of person submitting the information.

Please keep those Mail Pouch items coming! The Mail Bag is empty, and unless we hear from you, there will be no Mail Pouch in the September NNG. Send to either [tra@tra-spacepark.org](mailto:tra@tra-spacepark.org) or to TRA, Attn: Mail Pouch, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.



# TRA

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**The next NNG will be mailed  
in September.**

## THE MAIL POUCH

◆◆◆The healthy and very mobile **Brocks, Otto** and **Charlene**, down Las Cruces, NM way, will be traveling to Belfast, Ireland in July, then off to Nienburg Germany before returning. Both cities are sister cities to Las Cruces. When in town, they are active in the LC Symphony Association◆◆◆'04 retirees **Joe** and **Linda Freitag** claim they flunked retirement, but your editor does not believe they ever retired. Joe is active with the Colbaugh & Heinsheimer Proposal Management Team that has helped win many satellite contracts such as CEV, GPS III, GOES, and JTRS. Linda is a busy realtor in the Palos Verdes area of So Cal. They have traveled frequently to Spain, France, England, Africa, and Alaska. Joe, in his spare time, acquired a 1930 Model A Ford Cabriolet, and then a '56 Thunderbird, and attends club events for both cars◆◆◆It's called the **Bob Crowe** test. As the founder of Mail Pouch, Bob would proudly proclaim that any errors in his prose were put there deliberately to identify diligent readers. Now **Reg Lowell** passes the B.C. test by identifying a misspelled name in the June Mail Pouch. It's **Dale Bagley**, not Hagley, who ran the huge RW meetings◆◆◆**Andrew Bobby** would like an updated TRA Membership Directory to replace his 2006 edition. And so would we. But we, the staff, are retirees too, with procrastination a great



By Al Hausrath

aid to seniors. And Northrop Grumman has been going through a bunch of organizational changes that would affect the directory. So by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, it was agreed that the next directory would be published after a bit. Stay tuned◆◆◆How to survive without a new directory: contact **Gloria** and **Tony La Mantia**. In a new letter from Fullerton they reported on about 20 more TRW retirees that they omitted from last month's news. Example: "**Sandy Esquivel** is moving back from San Marcos, TX after living there a year." Or "On my birthday a call from **Stella** and **Bill Beaupre**, who live at Lake Isabella, CA," and "Every other month I see **Carol Fraser** from Northridge, for shopping & *Margaritas*." To get the complete report, email them at [gmlamantia40@hotmail.com](mailto:gmlamantia40@hotmail.com)◆◆◆The memorial mass for **Gene Cincotta** in May "was like a TRW reunion" reports Joe Larkin. Present were **Don McRell, Larry Williams, Darryl Floyd, Merle Ruge, Steve Kornfeld, Lou Petroni, Ed McAuliffe, Tony Rea, and Bob Esposito**. The Larkin's are fine and spending time between their San Diego and Lake Arrowhead homes◆◆◆No rocking chairs for **Vincent** and **Louise Neisius**. They do have a place called home in Sandy Springs, GA, but do enjoy

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