



# Flight Test Historical Foundation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE POC: Allen Hoffman (661) 275-3169**  
**2011 Gathering of Eagles Chairman**

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## Lt. Uhura To Beam Into AV Fairgrounds For Salute To The Space Shuttle

**Edwards AFB, CA September 15, 2011** – Nichelle Nichols, renowned actress, singer, voice artist, and NASA consultant will join the Flight Test Historical Foundation and hundreds of Space Shuttle workers, supporters, and enthusiasts at the 2011 Gathering of Eagles banquet on Friday evening, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Best known for her role as Lieutenant Uhura, communications officer aboard the starship *USS Enterprise* in the popular TV series *Star Trek* and the motion pictures that followed, Ms. Nichols will help celebrate the Space Shuttle Program and all those who helped make it a reality and tremendous success.

Aside from her *Star Trek* role where she has helped introduce millions into the possibilities for future space travel, she has played an instrumental part in furthering present day pursuits toward the human exploration of space. Working closely with NASA, she volunteered her time to recruit minority and female personnel for the space agency. Among those recruited: Dr. Sally Ride, our first American female Astronaut, and USAF Colonel Guion Bluford, first African-American Astronaut. Two members lost in the tragic explosion of *Challenger* – Dr. Ronald McNair and Dr. Judith Resnick – had prior successful Space Shuttle missions can also be included among those Nichols helped bring to the agency; as well as NASA's current Administrator and former Space Shuttle Astronaut, Charles Bolden. A strong advocate of space exploration, Nichols also serves on the Board of Governors for the National Space Society, another role that she has enthusiastically undertaken since the mid-1980s.

The Flight Test Historical Foundation will honor five area teams that were integral in the development, assembly, testing, and operation of the Space Shuttle. Being honored are: NASA's ALT/OFT Team; NASA Dryden Flight Research Center's Space Shuttle Operations Team; Boeing's Space Shuttle AIT Team at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale; Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne's Space Shuttle Main Engine Team in Canoga Park; and the US Air Force Space Shuttle Recovery Team at Edwards AFB.

"It's indeed a privilege to have Nichelle Nichols join us as we celebrate the Space Shuttle and all of the great achievements by the people and the system. She has inspired countless individuals to pursue their dreams and reach for the stars." exclaims Allen Hoffman, the event coordinator. Foundation chairperson Lisa Gray offers "We are very excited about Nichelle Nichols' decision to join us for this special affair. With Lt. Uhura on the flight deck, this will be a truly memorable evening. We welcome her aboard."

For tickets and additional information about the event, please call 877-358-8378 or go to [www.edwardsmuseum.org](http://www.edwardsmuseum.org).

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