

WAI TO INDUCT KATHERINE JOHNSON IN PIONEER HALL OF FAME DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By Fred Outten / Executive Producer/Howard U Alumnus

(Washington, DC, March 10, 2024) – “Get the girl to check the numbers.” If she says the numbers are good, astronaut John Glenn told them, “then I’m ready to go!” The “girl” John Glenn was referring to was **Katherine Johnson**, the brilliant **African American** mathematician and NASA Legend. John Glenn put his life in the hands of her mind instead of NASA’ electronic computers for those crucial calculations that would propel him into orbit and bring him home safely.

It is only fitting that during this year’s celebration of Women’s History Month, **Women in Aviation International (WAI)** will induct (posthumously) **NASA Legend and Woman of the 20th Century Katherine Johnson** into their **Pioneer Hall of Fame** for the Class of 2024 on March 23, 2024, in Orlando, Florida. **WAI** was established in 1992 to honor women who have made significant contributions as record-setters, pioneers, or innovators. With over 17,000 members worldwide, WAI is the largest organization in the world dedicated to increasing the number of women working in all areas of aviation and aerospace. Katherine Johnson will finally take her well-deserved place among the honorees of 2024!

As a nation, we must remember and honor Katherine Johnson (8/26/1918 – 2/24/2020) not only during Women’s History Month, but also keeping



KATHERINE JOHNSON at NASA in 1966. Image credit National Air and Space Museum

her at the forefront of our nation’s history. Katherine Johnson’s tenure at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and now NASA, was during the decades of the 1950s and 1960s when our nation, and indeed the world, were caught up in an exceedingly dangerous Space Race during the

Cold War with the then **#1 World Power**, the **Soviet Union** (now Russia). It was a time when the Soviet’s Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, threatened to “bury” America. A time when the threat of nuclear annihilation through an Atomic War was very real! Those of us who lived through that time remember the U.S. civil defense response of vivid “duck and cover” drills under desks in schools, the warning sirens that rang out at any time during Air- Raid Drills to seek cover in “fallout shelters” that were built underground throughout the country in the event of a nuclear attack. The success of America’s space program was vital to secure America’s ultimate victory in the Space Race with the Soviet Union and perhaps avoiding World War III.

Katherine Johnson’s mathematical genius was crucial in helping the United States win that Space Race. At NACA/NASA, Johnson’s unprecedented mathematical calculations of orbital mechanics, calculating trajectories, were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S.-crewed spaceflights: from America’s first man in space Alan Shepard’s Freedom 7 mission in 1961; to John Glenn’s three earth orbits in 1962; to the calculation of the trajectory for the historic first successful crewed 1969 Apollo 11 Moon landing and subsequent Apollo missions; to the Space Shuttle program; and to the Earth Resources Satellite. Even after her passing in 2020, Katherine Johnson’s work is still used to further the success of space exploration to this day!

Travis County Democratic Convention 2024: Strong Democrats; Strong Communities

Austin, Texas- As we navigate this pivotal presidential election year, the Travis County Democratic Party (TCDP) is proud to announce the 2024 Travis County Democratic Convention. This vital event is a call to action for those committed to safeguarding and strengthening our democracy, with critical discussions on gun violence prevention, reproductive rights, public education, and the celebration of women who have shattered barriers.

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024

Location: Eastside Early College High School, 900 Thompson Street, Austin TX 78702

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[Program starts at 10:00 AM]

Event Highlights:

Featuring impactful discussions led by frontline survivors, esteemed lawmakers, and educators, this year’s convention focuses on:

- **Gun Violence Prevention Panel:** Dialogue with

Uvalde survivors to explore actionable steps against gun violence.

- **Reproductive Rights Discussion:** Conversations with Rep. Donna Howard, PPTV, and attorney Austin Kaplan on battling restrictive reproductive laws.

- **Public Education Panel:** A discussion on supporting public education amidst challenges, featuring Rep. Gina Hinojosa, and AFT representatives.

- **Ceiling Breaker Panel:** Celebrating women who have made significant strides, in honor of Women’s History Month.

Special Acknowledgment

We are deeply honored to have **Congressman Doggett, Senator Eckhardt, and Mayor Watson** as some of our key speakers for this convention. Their unwavering support and leadership are instrumental in bringing our community together for this critical dialogue.

Additionally, we are privileged to feature **County**

Judge Brown, Austin City Council Members, Travis County Commissioners, our esteemed Judges, District Attorney Garza, Travis County Constables, and Congressman Casar among our distinguished speakers.

Their insights and contributions are vital to the discussions that will shape our strategies and actions moving forward.



Special Note from Pooja Sethi, Chair of the TCDP:

“In a year where the stakes could not be higher, our convention stands as a beacon of action and hope. Thanks to the energized Democrats in Travis County, we have a unique opportunity to unite, strategize, and advance our shared values. This is our moment to make a difference for our democracy, our community, and our future.”

Why Attend: Your voice is critical in this moment of unity and action. Join us as we come together to defend and advance our democratic ideals.

Celebrate National Nutrition Month
Sign up for WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

From pregnancy to your child’s fifth birthday, WIC provides breastfeeding support, nutrition classes and more. Find out your eligibility at TexasWIC.org/apply.

SCAN ME

