

Retiree's Corner

Warren Keller retired on February 24 after more than 30 years of government service. As Director of the Suborbital Projects and Operations Directorate, he was the senior official at Wallops for about seven years.

Warren came to Wallops from NASA Headquarters where he held a number of positions over a period of 20 years. During this period, he served, first, in the Office of Advanced Research and Technology as Chief of Space Vehicle Environmental Factors. Then, in the Office of Space Science, he served as Program Manager for the Voyager mission, Program Manager for the Hubble Space Telescope and, finally, as Deputy Director of the Solar Terrestrial and Astrophysics Division. Of his 30 plus years of Government service 28½ have been with NASA.

A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Keller began his NASA career at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1960. At Marshall he headed the Nuclear Physics Section, carrying out in-house and contract efforts in nuclear engineering and charged particle shielding.

Under Keller's leadership, NASA's suborbital programs carried out at Wallops have undergone a significant expansion as reflected by a tripling of the R&D budget during his time here. Many successful off-range campaigns have been completed, such as the

recent scientific studies of the Supernova 1987A from Australia. When the heavy-lift balloon programs were crippled with a high failure rate a few years ago, the Wallops organization initiated an R&D program that has led to an unprecedented success rate.

Keller has received numerous awards. For his contributions to the Voyager program, he received the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal and a special American Astronautical Society Award. Recently, he was honored in receiving a 1988 Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. Only 5% of Government Senior Executive Service personnel may be chosen each year for this award.

Keller attended the University of Tennessee where he received a B.S. in Engineering Physics in 1953, an M.S. in Physics in 1957, and held membership in Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Pi Sigma honorary societies. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Salisbury. He has served as an ex-officio member of the Greater Salisbury Committee, is a member of the board of directors of the Wicomico Education Foundation, and is a member of the Salisbury Rotary Club.

Although he will be enjoying visiting his new grandchildren, Warren will continue to stay busy in the business world. He has accepted a position with the BDM Corporation located in Columbia, Maryland. □



Memories, mementos, and fond farewells.