Verdugo Hills HOSPITAL

News

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Celine Petrossian
818.952.2213

VHH Foundation's Caduceus Club Journeys to Space

(GLENDALE, CA – February 21, 2008) — Members of the Verdugo Hills Hospital's (VHH) Caduceus Club and their guests came together for a special evening of space history and exploration at Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL) von Karman Auditorium on February 20.

After enjoying hors d'oeuvres, members and their guests watched a video presentation of "Journey to the Planets and Beyond", toured the museum exhibits and visited JPL's Mission Control Center.

VHH President and CEO Len LaBella and VHH Foundation President Margaret Kean along with Drs. Leo Berkenbile and Steven Hartford welcomed guests and thanked Caduceus Club members for their continuous support throughout the years.

"This type of support from our Medical staff is unique to VHH," said LaBella. "It reflects the staffs' commitment and support of their primary hospital, and represents their belief in the value of VHH to the community and the need to preserve this vital community asset."

"Membership to the Caduceus Club also demonstrates that our physicians are actively involved in the affairs of the hospital to which they admit their patients for diagnostic testing and other needed procedures," added LaBella.

During the event, Carl Raggio, a retiree of JPL and chairman of the VHH Board of Directors, talked about his work on Explorer 1, which was launched on January 31, 1958 making it United States' first earth satellite. Raggio's work on Explorer 1 has earned him worldwide recognition and honors throughout his career. JPL recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the launch of Explorer 1.

"I've had a marvelous time here at JPL, and I have moments when I miss it a lot," said Raggio.

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As Caduceus Club members and their guests took a 200-yard walk from the von Karman Auditorium to the Mission Control Center, they had an opportunity to catch a glimpse of the year's only total lunar eclipse.

In addition, JPL's Kent Frewing, Technical Executive Assistant – Office of Director, discussed JPL's primary mission, which is robotic exploration of space. He also discussed four other JPL missions, including explorations of the remainder of the solar system; the planets around other stars; the universe; and the planet Earth.

Founded in 1982 by the VHH Foundation, the Caduceus Club is the annual giving arm of the medical staff, and an integral part of the hospital's financial support. Funds raised are used to support the purchase of capital medical equipment, facility improvements and educational programs.

JPL is a NASA center, staffed and managed for the government by a leading private university, California Institute of Technology. JPL is a federally funded research and development center, and is one of 10 NASA centers in the nation.

About the Hospital:
VHH is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted "Foothill's Best Hospital" for 2007 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press.* Several physicians on staff also received recognition as the best in the community, including: Dr. Scott W. Beeve, Foothills Best Opthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry, Jr., Foothills Best Plastic Surgeon; Dr. Richard L. Rupp, Foothills Best Podiatrist; Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills Best Family Physician; Dr. Jane S. Wada, Foothills Best Dermatologist; and Dr. Ronald D. Woodard, Foothills Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org.

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