

Insider insights: Space Shuttle Discovery finds a new home

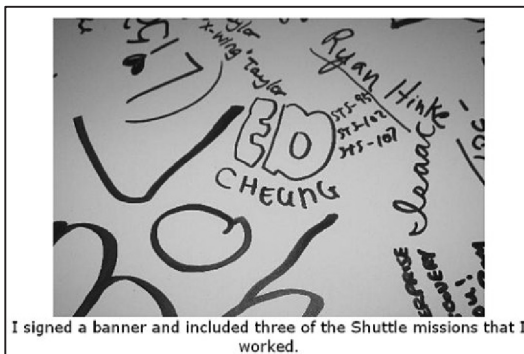
NASA personnel have experienced some bittersweet events over the last three years with the retirement of the shuttle program and final missions to the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station. Aruba has been fortunate to have a front row seat and some insider insights into these events as native son Dr. Ed Cheung has shared his eyewitness accounts with readers of THE MORNING NEWS.

Dr. Cheung joined the NASA team in the early 1990's

immediately upon attaining his doctorate in Electrical Engineering, specializing in Robotics, from Yale, through a scholarship from NASA and Phillips Electronics. He rose through the ranks to become the Principal Engineer of the Hubble Space Telescope Service Project, devising with his team innovative equipment for not only the maintenance of the HST, but cutting edge technology such as the Wide Field Camera 3, which was installed on the last mission to the HST



Ed with the Enterprise and Discovery



I signed a banner and included three of the Shuttle missions that I worked.

in 2009; it is providing scientists with information and images of deep space never seen before.

It was his ASCS/NCS Relay Unit Breaker Assembly or ARUBA box, created in record time, which was installed on the HST during an emergency mission in 2002 that repaired a faulty cooling system and stopped the telescope from falling out of orbit.

Dr. Cheung was an active participant in the final flights of shuttles Endeavor and Discovery, ST-135, on duty in the "Tweet Tent" at Kennedy Space Center, explaining events to onlookers.

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Dr. Cheung also participated in the placement of Discovery at the Smithsonian on April 20 as one of the NASA scientists explaining the space program and the HST to enthusiastically fascinated youngsters and their parents. "The list of missions that Discovery has completed is impressive. Among those is of course the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope. It is for this reason that the Smithsonian requested this Shuttle in particular when they were announced for retirement," he informs THE MORNING NEWS.

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