**Barbara Schwartz**

**Mission Control, Johnson Space Center (Retired)**

Barbara Schwartz pursued many passions in her life. She dreamed about working for NASA in mission control after watching the first moonwalk during Apollo 11. She wanted to be a cop, a writer, and work on race cars. Through hard work, resiliency after setbacks, and lots of determination, she made all that happen.

Schwartz earned her aeronautical and astronautical engineering degree from Purdue University. She participated in the cooperative education program with NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC).

Schwartz retired from JSC where she worked as a flight controller in Mission Control and trained astronauts on the Extravehicular Mobility Unit or spacesuit used for spacewalks. She is proud to be one of the first women, and the first female Purdue graduate, to serve in mission control.

She worked several mission control positions starting with the Space Shuttle Approach and Landing Tests. She served as a Deploy Phase specialist, Flight Activities Officer, Guidance and Procedures Officer, Extravehicular Mobility Unit systems specialist, and in spacecraft planning and analysis.

Schwartz completed rotational assignments with the X-38 flight test project and the Space Shuttle Engineering and Integration Office following the Columbia accident.

Schwartz worked in technical operations for Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART) the predecessor to Indycar. She served as a pit road official and as an engineer with race teams.

Schwartz has supported the Houston Police Officers’ Union for 35 years. She is certified in first responder peer support and writes for several law enforcement publications. She served in patrol and investigations as a reserve officer in her hometown and worked for the Purdue Police to pay tuition