



StarLight

Volume One September 2019 Issue Three



Finding Our Way Home



From the First Officer

Well here it is Labor Day holiday, and I am sitting here trying to figure out what to write or say and not make it sound cheesy or dumb. Things are getting better with my rehab. I've graduated from the wheelchair to the walker, but it's only on a limited basis. Example, only in my room, to and from the bathroom, to and from the nurses station and the dining room. Anything just to get out of that dammed chair and get the strength build back up in my legs. I still have to use the wheelchair to and from therapy, and anywhere else I need to go in the facility. But I have a feeling that sometime soon, I can or will leave the wheelchair behind. At least I hope it will be soon. I hope it will be.

Well onto more interesting stuff. I am hoping with this installment of the StarLight, that I will be all caught up with past articles. I even added few new articles as well.

Along with the next chapter in the saga of the Brightstar.

This is totally weird. I usually have more to say or write than what I have written so far, I guess I don't have much more to say for this issue. Oh well there is always the next installment.

Well it's time to put this puppy to bed. See you next time.

The First Officer

My Memories of the Challenger Accident

It strange that I'm sitting here writing this article on this date. If you're little confused, or you're asking yourself what is so special about this day, don't worry I'll explain. Today's date (as I'm writing) is February 1, 2019. On this date (excuse the pun) sixteen years ago February 1, 2003, the Columbia disintegrated upon entering the Earth's atmosphere killing all seven astronauts. It would be two more years before N.A.S.A. would resume shuttle flights again.

No, I am not talking about the Columbia accident, no I'm referring

to a date that N.A.S.A. just recently marked a few days earlier. This anniversary took place thirty-three years ago on January 28, 1986. I am referring to what is often called the Challenger Accident. Just seventy-three seconds after lift-off, the space shuttle Challenger exploded killing all onboard including one civilian a teacher Sharon Christa McAuliffe from New Hampshire.

It was later determined that the O-ring on the right solid rocket booster failed, which allowed hot gases to escape and damaged the large external fuel tank. Which lead to the explosion. It was also later determined that at the time, the temperature was thirty-six degrees. Fifteen degrees colder than any N.A.S.A. launch they had staged before. This caused the O-ring to shrink and harden.

At the time, I was in the United States Army stationed in Karlsruhe, Germany. The city itself is just a ten to fifteen-minute bike ride from the French-West German border. Oh, by the way, Karlsruhe in German means Karl's resting place. Now, where were we? Oh yes, stationed in Germany. It was around 6 o'clock in the evening German time. I think I was doing laundry at the time. Someone knocks on my door. I said, "Come on in" not knowing who it was.

It turns out it was my squad leader. I believed I was watching a movie. He asked why I wasn't watching the news? I told him I was having problems with my antenna and the channel with the Army entertainment wasn't coming in at all.

He said I better come over to his room, there something I needed to see. I went to his room. When I arrived, there were already three or four other guys standing or sitting in front of his T.V. His T.V. tuned to the Army entertainment channel. The news that was being put out by the news anchors was very somber. I could have sworn I could see a tear in the female anchor eyes. They of course were talking about the shuttle Challenger exploding. And of course, that there were no survivors. They showed the footage of the shuttle lift-off. And the reaction of the crowd. Including the reaction of Sharon Christa McAuliffe parents who were in the crowd. I found a chair and sat down with disbelief registering on my face. I must have been in my squad leaders' room for a couple of hours just watching the news. By the time I notice what time it was, my entire platoon was in his room watching his T.V. and they had the same look of disbelief on their faces as well.

For days after the tragedy, that's all anybody would talk about. Everyone had their own theory on the how and the why. Even my company First Sargent had his own theory, but he said he would wait for N.A.S.A. investigate to be completed. Of course, it would be some time before that would happen. It still hard to believe all this happen thirty-three years ago this past January.

N.A.S.A. Says Good-Bye to Rover Opportunity

Fourteen years of odyssey, exploration and learning came to an end on February 13, 2019. It came to an end when N.A.S.A. announced that all attempts at re-establishing contact with the Mars rover Opportunity had failed.

Opportunity has changed our understanding of Mars. It changed what we knew about the landscape, geology, atmosphere and the history of our closest neighbor. Opportunity was the second of two rovers sent to Mars. Launched on July 7, 2003. It landed on Mars on January 25, 2004. It landed at the Meridiani Planum. Opportunity original mission was only to last three months but was extended for 5,515 Earth days. Opportunity was the second of two rovers sent to Mars as part of the Mars Exploration Rovers (MER) mission.

At the February 13 news conference, a N.A.S.A. representative stated that after a last-ditch effort on Tuesday February 12, 2019 to re-establish contact with the rover, that mission has failed. They initially lost contact with Opportunity on June 10, 2018. This was caused by a planet wide sandstorm. This planet wide storm also prevented the rover from storing power collected from its solar panels. N.A.S.A. controllers sent over 830 rescue commands to the rover (including this latest attempt). Its twin rover Spirit met its fate when it became stuck in a sand trap in 2009. N.A.S.A. closed the books on the rover Spirit in 2011.

Thomas Zurlbachen associate administrator at N.A.S.A. Mission Directorate said at the news conference, "I learned this morning that we have not heard back from the rover." Zurlbachen also goes on to say, "I am standing here with a sense of deep appreciation and gratitude that I declare the Opportunity mission as complete."

Jim Bridenstine a N.A.S.A. administrator shared his thoughts on Twitter along with many space fans said this, "After eight hundred and thirty attempts to contact the Mars rover Opportunity, today we're

announcing the end of a successful Martian mission." Intended to explore the red planet for only ninety days. Opportunity outlived its mission lifetime by fourteen years. Opportunity received numerous heartbreaking eulogies. N.A.S.A. would hold a silent funeral for the rover. In 2005 alone the rover would give the controllers at N.A.S.A. one of many scares. At one point it became stuck in a sand dune. N.A.S.A. worked frantically to mimic the Martian soil so they could carefully maneuver Opportunity free. It survived its first dust storm in 2007. It dealt with an intermittent problem with one of its wheels and had to also deal with a problem with its robotic arm throughout its expedition. Opportunity and its twin Spirit are both the size of a golf cart.

Opportunity took over six months to journey to the Endurance crater. It was to examine the bedrock and the sand dunes in the area. The Endurance crater is 13.7 miles wide (22 kilometers) Opportunity took over three years to study the crater. A Steve Squyres principal investigator at the time said, "This tells a slam-dunk story that water flowed through underground fractures in the rock." Opportunity got lucky one time when it managed to take pictures of Mars version of a dust devil on the surface of the planet.

Opportunity then traveled seven hundred and thirty meters (.45 miles) to study the Victoria crater from 2006 to 2008. It discovered the how and why water entered and left the region billions of years ago. In its fourteen years on the Martian surface, Opportunity made several discoveries. One of which was the discovery of the first non-terrestrial meteorite on Mars. It also discovered that Meridiani Planum was once covered by water. Surveyed over one hundred impact craters. The rover took and delivered countless panoramas of Mars. Mars itself is over thirty-four million miles from Earth (55 million kilometers).

Opportunity celebrated its five thousandth Martian day with a selfie. It gave every impression of not slowing down.

Someone said of the rover Opportunity "It is one of resilience, discovery and wonder. Record breaking testament to its engineers, scientists and the leaders of N.A.S.A."

The final resting place of Opportunity lies on the western edge of Endeavor crater in a gully named Perseverance Valley. The rover Curiosity now remains the only Mars rover still operating on Mars

surface. But it won't be alone for long. It will be joined by two other yet unnamed rovers by 2021 or 2022. They are both due to be launched in 2020.

N.A.S.A. Study's Twin Astronauts

N.A.S.A. is studying twin astronauts Scott and Mark Kelly to study the effects of space travel on the human body. Both Scott and Mark Kelly are twin brothers. While Scott Kelly spent nearly a year in space, his brother remains on Earth. N.A.S.A. scientists noticed that while Mark remains on Earth his immune system stayed at the same level along with his genes. On the other hand, his brother Scott showed different results. His immune system went on high alert, which caused some changes in his genes as well.

The scientists at N.A.S.A. are not sure what to make of the result, whether good or bad. Which raised some questions for the doctors at the space agency which is planning on sending people to Mars. This unprecedented study of the twin brothers gave the scientists and doctors at N.A.S.A. a chance to study human biology. And asked why the human immune system turns itself off/on or goes into

hyperactive mode in space, while the human body stays the same here on Earth. Some say that it may be the human body's way of reacting to its environment.

A geneticist Christopher Mason of New York's Weill Cornell School of Medicine said "It's as if the body is reacting to this environment. Sort of like if you would have a mysterious organism being inside of you." Christopher Mason is helping lead the study into the effect of space travel on astronauts. N.A.S.A. scientists have been studying the question since the early days of space exploration.

While in space, astronauts must exercise constantly to counter the effects of bone loss. On average an astronaut spends six months in space. Scott Kelly set the U.S. space record at 340 days. "I've never felt completely normal in space." Kelly stated in an email to the Associated Press. He cited congestion from shifting fluids, headaches, difficulty concentrating due to extra carbon dioxide and some digestive complaints due to the microgravity.

The study on the twin brothers will also delve into the molecular level. The full results have not yet been published, but some of the findings were presented, Friday

February 22, 2019 to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "A number of genes connected to the immune system became hyperactive. It's not a change in DNA but in what's called gene expression." Mason stated while studying the twins. He also notices a spike in the bloodstream of Scott Kelly that indicates a marker that primes the immune system. At the same time Scott Kelly blood also showed fewer cell type that an early defense against viruses.

"No surprise gene activity changes in space as its response to stress. You can see the body adapting to the changes in its environment." Mason stated. He goes on to say, "The good news is almost everything returns to normal shortly after Scott Kelly returned to Earth in March of 2016. However, those immune-related genes seemed to still be on high alert even six months later."

Craig Kundrat who heads the space life and science research for N.A.S.A. stated, "On the whole its encouraging. There are no major new warning signs. We are seeing changes that we didn't necessarily anticipate, but don't know if those changes matter." Kundrat also says that, "Four Russians living in space for a year of Earth time. N.A.S.A.

believes life in space is possible. We also aim for more than just possible; we want our astronauts to do more than just survive."

The doctors and scientist of N.A.S.A. say that we're studying the twins, formed a list of things to watch for on future space missions with other astronauts. N.A.S.A. also said that future astronauts will be able to do test while in space instead of freezing the sample for scientist back on Earth. The issue with the human immune system is familiar to Dr. Jerry Linenger. He spent four months on the Russian space station Mir. He said, "I was never sick in orbit, but once I came back to Earth, I was probably sicker than I was in my life."

Scientist and doctors say that the astronauts bring their own germs into the space station, the astronauts are exposed to germs by the other astronauts. After about a week, nothing new happens. This is because of the sterile environment, a very sterile environment. Your immune system is really not challenged." Linenger said.

By doing these studies now N.A.S.A. is hoping for a successful mission to Mars. N.A.S.A. is hoping to launch in 2030. The trip itself will take thirty months (2 1/2 years).

That would include time on the surface of Mars. With the trip taking two and half years in space just to get to Mars, radiation is a big concern of N.A.S.A. Astronauts on the trip to Mars, would be exposed to galactic cosmic radiation. Levels are higher than N.A.S.A. safety standards. "It's the radiation levels are just a little bit over." Kundrat stated.

Kundrat goes on to state, "On Earth or even in orbit aboard a space station Earth magnetic field shields the astronauts from lots of the radiation. There would be no such shielding on the way to Mars or on the way back. But once there tunnels or dirt-covered habitats could help a bit on the surface of Mars." Kundrat said.

Scott Kelly turns 55 in the first week in March 2019. Scott Kelly said he would go to Mars. Scott goes on, "A trip that long wouldn't be worse than what I experienced. Possibly better. I think the physical challenge, radiation aside, will be a mission where you are in space for years at a time."



Remembering Our Mothers

As I am writing this article, it is the day after Mother's Day. This Mothers' Day is better this year than last year at this same time. Last year at this time, I was in the hospital and in a coma for three weeks. And had my mother still been around, she wouldn't have left my bedside no matter what my dad or anybody else would have said. Now I could, and if you pulled me off to the side, would talk your ears off. But this is not what this article is about. This article is about remembering our mothers. Whether they are present with us or remembering your mother because she is no longer here with you.

In my case, it's the latter. This past April 30, 2019, marks the twenty-first anniversary of her passing. There are things about my mom I don't remember because of the years that have gone by or because of age. If not both. Then there are things about my mom, I wish I could forget, but I know in my heart of heart that I could never forget. No matter how hard I tried to forget. Some of those memories are painful, scary and funny all at the same time. Especially with my mom. You see I am the eldest of three brothers and

when it comes to my mother, she didn't take any guff from any of us boys, least of all me!! Sometimes they (mine or your mothers) don't even have to be around to let you know that they are still watching you. As I am about to relate to you shortly.

Sometime without you knowing it, they will put you in your place and put the fear of God in you both at the same time. As it was in my case.

I was sixteen at the time when this happen, and you know how teenagers can be. Now I don't know what started this argument with my mom, but I do remember where I was standing. Where she was standing and what she was doing at the time as well. And I sure do remember what was said. I was standing in the laundry room which is right next to the kitchen. Which is where my mother was. She was washing the last of the pots and pans that was left from dinner. Some words were said, and she just looked at me like she had a pair of glasses on and looking over the top of them. This is what I like to call "The Mama Look."

It's the look you get when you screwed up, and your mother knows what you did and doesn't have to say a word. Of course, in my case it was just a little different. My mother had a potential weapon in her hand. A skillet. And not just any skillet, an old fashion iron skillet. The type that you if you don't shake it, then wipe and then shake it again to make sure you got all the water off. Because if you don't it will rust. And my mom was shaking that skillet and I saw that, and

I thought, "oh crap, I stepped in it now. She's going to hit me with that thing." She stood there while shaking that skillet and said, "Boy, you maybe younger than me, you maybe taller than me, you may be that much faster than me. But that don't mean I can't take you down a notch or two."

With that said and with her still holding that skillet in her hand, I did the only smart thing a person could do. I said, "Yes, ma'am." I turned around and walked away. Years later, I told this same story to my fiancée at the time. My mom overheard me telling this tale. Mom just looked at me and said, "I don't remember doing that." My response was, "Yes mom you did." She said for a second time, "I just don't remember doing that." This time, I began looking around to see where my mom was standing. To see if that stupid old skillet, or anything else that was within reach. I looked at my mother and said, "Yes mom you did. I remember it quite well. You were in the kitchen and I was standing in the laundry room. Mom I remember it quite well." My mom being mom just looked at me and kept saying, "I don't remember doing that."

Years after she had passed away, I still find myself telling this story. And I still imagine my mom doing the face balm. And I still hear her saying, "I just don't

remember doing that." As I said before, moms don't have (God forbid the thought) to be around. They still let you know that they are still watching you. And moral of the tale is this. Don't cross your mother, ever! Now the moral of this next story is moms will always have the last laugh. No matter what.

My case in point. I had the day off from work, I had just finished watching "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull." When my ex called on the phone. I asked what's up. The ex-asked if I could float her some money. I said sure. What's the problem? So, she goes on and tells me that she's having a hard time keeping our son in clothes because he is growing so fast. At the time our son was about thirteen or fourteen years old at the time. I tell you this because what is coming next. When she mentioned, "He is growing so fast." I asked, well how tall is he? For some reason she wouldn't answered that question. She would tell me everything else. She tells me that he is wearing size fourteen or fifteen shoes. My question to her was, "Where the hell are you going to find battleships that size." The ex-wife just ignored the question and kept going. She, for some reason would not answer that one question.

It got to the point where I got so fed up and blurted out, "Dammit woman tell me how tall the boy is?!" There was a couple seconds of silence then she dropped the bomb on me. The ex-wife tells me that my son goes through three and a half gallons of milk a week and he is still growing. I hear this and like a computer when its fed to much or

contradicting information, I froze up. I froze because all the information that was fed to me kept going through my mind and I kept coming up with the same answer. My son is going to be taller than me. While this was going through my mind, my ex-wife on the other end of the phone kept calling my name. Finally, on the fifth try she finally got my attention. But all I could say was "My mom is laughing at me."

I must have said that at least three or four times before I heard what my ex-wife was saying. When I did, she was asking what I was talking about? I asked her, do you remember my mom. Yes, I remember your mom. She said. I asked her, "Remember how short she was?" On her best day my mom was five foot five if not six inches.

Well anyway when I asked that question, my ex-wife said, "Yeah, I remember how short she was. There was silence for a moment, then I heard her take a breath and she finally got what I was talking about. "Yeah, right she is laughing at you." And like that last scene in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" with Indy sitting on top of that hill with his soon-to-be-wife and son, he just looked up at the sky and said, "Somewhere your grandfather is laughing at me." And that is how I felt at that exact moment. Only in my case it was my mother laugh-

ing not my grandmother or my grandfather for that matter. Then again, they might have been, along with my mom of course.

I could go on with a couple of more stories but unfortunately, I just don't have the space to write it all down. So, if you see this and see me at a convention and want to hear more about my mother, just pull me off to the side and ask. So, I'll end this article with a warning, never, never underestimate your mother. Whether she is here among the living or whether she passed on, she still watching you and watching over you.

Happy Mother's Day

Mom I miss you.

1942 - 1998

Sonequa Martin-Green let slip about new Trek show

In a recent Larry King interview with Sonequa Martin-Green, Sonequa let slip the new Star Trek show and its title. The show is set to premier on CBS all access. When it will premier, they have not said.

The new Trek series title is set to be called Star trek: Picard. Soneque also said Patrick Stewart made the announcement that he is slated to return as Picard, "He announced his come back recently and it was, good-

ness, the response was amazing. People are really happy including me." Patrick Stewart himself confirmed this but would not say what that title was.

This was not the first time that a Picard series has come up. Even the title has come up as a possible title. Both Star Trek: Discovery and the new Picard series will be covered by creative teams of Star Trek: Discovery. It is possible that Martin-Green is not letting on what she really knows about the new Trek series.

Patrick Stewart revealed on the British T.V. show The Graham Norton Show that the time period for the Picard series is set fifteen to nineteen years into the future. So that means if the final episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation "All Good Things" took place in 2370. That would put the new series between 2385 to 2390. That would also put the supernova event that destroyed Romulus in 2387. And the events that took place in Star Trek: Nemesis, the attempted Romulan coup, took place in 2379. Kurtzman said at a TCA winter press tour, "Well, I'll tell you the first thing we all said is it has to feel grounded." Of the post-Nemesis Star Trek universe Kurtzman also

said, “ No matter what choices we’re making about portraying the future, it has to feel grounded, because I think one of the things people have loved so much about Next Gen is that it is a very emotional, thoughtful, grounded piece of entertainment. And the easy thing to do is come up with crazy floating skyscrapers and all the clichés of science fiction. We tried to avoid that across the board. So, in the production designs, in the look of it, in the small intimate personal details that you can still connect to now even though it’s taking place so far in the future.”

Editor’s note.

As of the publication of this article things have changed. Paramount recently announced the new Trek series, Star Trek: Picard will premier in early 2020.



Comic Book Legend Stan Lee Passes at 95

Born December 28, 1922 as Stanly Martin Lieber in Manhattan, New York to Jewish parents of Jack Lieber and Celia (Solomon) Lieber, immigrated from Romania. As a child he loved to read. At age ten he had begun reading Shakespeare, novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edger Rice Burroughs and Mark Twain. He would also read some of the pulp fiction of the time. Graduated from Dewitt Clinton High School at the age of seventeen.

In 1939, Stan was hired on at Timely publication. Timely would change their name to Atlas comics, then change their name yet again to Marvel Comics. He worked alongside with Jack Kirby and Joe Simon the originators of Captain America.

With the outbreak of World War Two, Stan Lee would serve states side in the Army Signal Corp. He would work with putting together training manuals.

All the while moonlighting as a writer for comic books. After the war, Jack Kirby and Joe Simon were hired away from Timely Publication. Stan Lee was appointed chief editor. Along with being chief editor, he was also writer and publisher.

In 1947, Stan would meet a hat model by the name of Joan Boocock, she would move from her native England to New York. She would marry Stan that same year. They would remain married for seventy years until her passing in 2017. They would have two children. The first was born Joan Celia Lee in 1950. Joan and Stan would have another child in 1952, a daughter. They would lose their little girl three days after she was born.

By 1961, Stan had revolutionized the comic book world by launching a superhero team, The Fantastic Four. He would also come up with several other superhero's over the years. Such as Spider-man, Iron-man, The Hulk, The X-Men, and Black Panther, Thor, and The Avengers. He used several pseudonyms to give the impression that Marvel had a large stable of writers.

In 1970, Stan would split his last name in two. He would legally change his name from Lieber to Lee. It has been said about Stan Lee that he crystallized the golden age of comic books by having more complex characters and stories. He imbues the characters with self-doubt and remorse of average

people.

It is a well-known fact that Stan Lee would charm his readers with jokey conspiratorial comments. Stan would also have asterisked aside in narrative panels often referring them to previous issues.

He also came up with a Latin-derived call to rise "Excelsior!" In the 1980's Stan move to Los Angeles, California and explore a new outlet for Marvel. At the same time, he took up the role of producer for Spider-man, The Incredible Hulk T.V. shows. In 1988, he founded a production company named Stan Lee Media with Peter Paul. Paul would be arrested, tried, and convicted of violating S.E.C. regulation. Stan was forced to file for bankruptcy.

In describing Stan Lee, some say that he was energetic, gregarious, optimistic, alternately grandiose self-effacing. At one time he was criticized for his role in denying rights and royalties to his artistic collaborators.

In his profile he wrote, "Almost everything I've ever written I could finish at one sitting. I'm a fast writer. Maybe not the best, but the fastest." Stan Lee is also quoted as saying, "As far as I'm concerned, a really great comic book story is every bit as creative and important as a great story done."

Before his passing, he settles with Marvel Comics for ten million dollars in unpaid Spider-Man

royalties. Also, it is rumored that Stan Lee made one last cameo in the Marvel movie *Marvel: Avengers End Game*.

His lawyer Mr. Schenck confirmed Stan Lee's death. "Stan Lee passed at Cedar-Sini Medical Center in Los Angelis, California. Addition to his daughter Joan Celia Lee, Stan Lee is also survived by his younger brother Larry Lieber. He drew for a syndicated newspaper strip for years.

Stan Lee the greatest of the great in the comic book industries. He will be sorely missed,

Good-bye Stan and thank you for the hero's and the great story's you have given us over the years.

I will miss you dear friend.

EXCELSIOR!!

Stan Lee 95

December 28, 1922 – November 12, 2018

Star Trek: Brightstar

"Moving On"

3

A lone Starfleet shuttle craft circles the landing field as it descends to land in the center of a lit circle. Once it lands the large rear door of the shuttle craft begins to slowly lower. The craft is met by a group of Vulcans in ceremonial garbs. The group stops at the edge of the lights just as

the door touches the soil of Vulcan. The door becomes a ramp when eight individuals escorting a see-through casket comes down the ramp with reverence, four on each side. They reach the edge of the lights where the Vulcans stand ready. One of the Vulcans begin to speak to the Brightstar eight.

"Captain Deora. All of Vulcan welcomes you. I would have preferred it was under better circumstances." Belec stated with a tone that told the captain that he was being genuine.

"Thank you, Belec. I too wish it was under better conditions. And judging by your body language, this is not our stop, is it?" Captain Deora stated with concern.

"My apologies Captain. I'm just as much in the dark about this as you are. I did get that right number one. I am sorry Captain, S'tol instructions are most illogical when I read them. Which wasn't much of an instruction to begin with.

Captain Deora turned towards her first officer and asked, "Have you two met before Commander?"

"Sir, this is the first time I have ever met Belec" T'sikes answered with a perplex look on his face.

Belec looked at everyone. Then turned his attention back toward Captain Deora. "Again, my apologies Captain. I took the liberty of contacting Starfleet Command and asking for the current command

staff of the Brightstar.”

“A most logical choice Belec.” Deora commented.

“I am honored Captain. The Vulcan acolytes will see to the care of Captain S'tol's body.” Belec held up his right hand to stop the captain from asking questions that he knew were coming. Then he continued from where he left off. “Captain Deora before you asked any more questions, Captain S'tol's body will be well taken care of by these acolytes. The Katra ceremony cannot take place until his parents are here. And that can't happen for at least for another five days. So, if you and the rest of your staff care to join me. I have made arrangements for a shuttle to take us to our family home.” Belec had finally finished talking.

Captain Deora still had questions that needed answered to, but she quickly realized that she was not going to get the answers here.

“Belec we'll be more than honored to join you.” It was the only thing that Captain Deora could say at the moment.

After that being said, the Vulcan acolytes walked around Belec and stood in front of him. Captain Deora and the rest of the bridge staff came to a stance of attention and turned in such a way that they were facing the coffin. All took two steps back. The Vulcan acolytes walked up to the coffin and parted so there were four on each side. They stopped and did an about face. Each grabbed the

handle of the coffin and began walking. While they walked with the body each acolyte displayed the Vulcan salute.

Each of the bridge crew including both the captain and the first officer stood there for a moment, each deep in their own thoughts and emotions. Each watching Captain S'tol's body disappear off into the distance on its way to Mount Seleya. When they could not see the body of the Captain S'tol or the Vulcan acolytes, they looked at each other and then looked at Belec with his right arm out pointing towards the awaiting shuttle. They all began walking towards it with Belec leading the way.

Half an hour later, the shuttle deposited its passengers in front of a very large but simple looking Vulcan home.

“I take it this is your family's home Belec?” Captain Deora asked with wonderment.

“A very logical assumption Captain. You keep impressing me with your logic. Do you carry Vulcan blood in you?” Belec asked with a very serious look on his face.

“I thought that Vulcan's didn't tell jokes?” The captain asked.

The first officer started to snicker but quickly stifled it when he noticed another shuttle sitting in front of Belec's home. T'sikes quickly looked at his security officer Ensign Josh. Ensign Josh saw his first officer looking at him and just as

quickly saw where his look was going. He did a quick nod and began walking towards the other shuttle. This action did not go unnoticed by Belec.

“Ensign Josh is there a problem?” The Vulcan asked the young ensign.

“That depends, is this why we are here?” T’sikes asked pointing at the shuttle.

Belec looked in the direction that Commander T’sikes was pointing and saw the other shuttle, then look back to the group.

“Again, as I stated before I can’t say. What I do know is this, S’tol has been working and planning for this for some time. I suspect since before he was posted to Planetary Outpost Stephen Hawking.” Belec explained as best as he could as a Vulcan and as the cousin to S’tol.

Before anyone could say or asked the obvious question, Ensign Josh walks up to the side of Commander T’sikes and he whispered something into his right ear.

“It’s ok sir. It’s clear.” T’sikes stated as he looked at the captain.

“Thank you, Commander. Although I doubt that Belec would let anything happen to us let alone me.” Deora said.

“No that is quite alright Captain and most logical move on his part. Especially with the Logic Extremist still around.” Belec said as he too looked at the shuttle.

“Then I take it this is not your shuttle?” Ensign Josh asked with suspicion in his voice.

“No that is not my shuttle, although it does look like the shuttle that a courier might use Ensign Josh and if it is, the courier is probably inside waiting on us, or I might say you and your friends Captain.” Belec stated.

“We meant no offence Belec. It’s just things have been a little weird of late.” Deora said with truthfulness of a Starfleet officer.

“I understand Captain. More so than you know.” Belec said as he realized that he said more than he should.

“Oh, What do you mean? Are you referring to the Logic Extremist you mention earlier?” Commander T’sikes asked with growing suspicion.

“I’m sorry Commander, I just can’t answer that question yet.” Belec said as he first looked at the captain then the first officer and then everyone else.

“If I may Captain, Commander, I suspect your questions will be answered very soon. Please everyone, I would be honored if you and your staff would join me?” Belec said as he once again held out his right arm showing them to his family abode. Only this time it was to invite everyone in.

Captain Deora just stood there for a moment. Looks at every one

of her friends who had the same perplexed look on their faces as she herself did. And then looked at Belec.

“We would be honored sir.”

With Belec leading the way, he began climbing the steps that led the way to his family’s dwelling. The captain along with rest of the bridge crew followed, as they watched the captain begin to rub her right blue antennae. A few started to snicker a little. The captain just ignored them. The only thing she had on her mind at that moment was wondering what her former Chief of Science has in store for them.



Barbara March (Scarfe) Passes at 65

Barbara March better known as Lursa Duras one half of the Duras sisters has passed away from cancer at the age of 65.

Born of Polish parents on October 9, 1953 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. After graduating from the University of Windsor with BFA in Dramatic Arts, she went straight into acting. Starting out as a stage performer Barbara would star in “Othello” as Desdemona. Her next play

“Measure for Measure” as Isabella. “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” as Titania, “The Duchess of Malfi” as the title heroine, Harold Pinter’s “The Homecoming” as Ruth. She would play Lady Macduff and Lady Macbeth in “Macbeth” several times. She would star in other plays as well, such as Neil Simon’s “Chapter Two” as Jenny. Next would be “Preset Laughter” as Joanna, “The Gayden Chronicles” as Rowena. She was heavily involved with Canada’s Stratford Shakespeare Festival and in the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. She would also star in plays in New York and Los Angeles. Barbara would earn a Genie Award nomination for Best Actress for her role in the “Deserter”. She would become a playwright in her own right with the play “The Razing of Charlotte Bronte”, which is available in Italian as “Le riflessioni di Charlotte Bronte”. Besides being a playwright, Barbara wrote several novels. One of which she also wrote the screen play for it “The Copper People”. She was a well-known poet as well.

Besides her stage credits, she had some impressive on-screen credits as well. Her first on-screen

credited role was in "Deserters" 1983 as Val Manufort follow by episode on the Canadian t.v. show "Nighthat" 1985-1989 as Elsa. Barbara did an episode of "L.A. LAW" 1986-1994 as Dr. Marion Shearer. Her other roles include "Twelfth Night" 1986 as Maria; "Kingsgate" 1989 unknown role; "The Gambler Returns: Luck of the Draw" 1991 as Prairie Kate; "Bloodties" 1991 as woman guest #2; "Star Trek: The Next Generation" 1987-1994, season 4 episode 26 "Redemption part 1" 1991, season 5 episode 1 "Redemption part 2" as Lursa Duras; "The Portrait" 1992 as Marguerite Chirac; "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" 1993-1999 episode "Past Prologue" as Lursa Duras. Then again in "Star Trek: The Next Generation" 1987-1994 episode "Firstborn"; "Total Security" 1997 as Helen Reboldt. Barbara March would play Lursa two more times in 1994 "Star Trek: Generation." In Generation, the Duras sisters would be killed when they took on the crew of the Enterprise. She would play Lursa one last time in the video game "Star Trek Generation: Klingon Honor Guard".

She would make regular appearances at Star Trek conventions. Sometime dressed as Lursa.

In 1979, she would meet and marry

a fellow stage actor Alan Scarfe. They would have a daughter Antonia "Tosia" Scarfe who is an accomplished musician and composer. Barbara is also a step-mother to a son Jonathan Scarfe who is from a previous marriage.

In a 1994 StarTrek.com interview Barbara said of her and Gwynyth roles as Lursa and B'Etor Duras. "We were really surprised by how popular Lursa and B'Etor are. I think it's because, in one sense, these women have a great deal of power. They're very emotional, almost a bad Laurel and Hardy team. They're rebellious, strong, and can kick butt, and there just aren't that many female characters on television who control things like the Duras sisters try to do. I think all of these aspects, and the chemistry between Gwynyth and I have helped the characters really catch on. It was wonderful to create a character on Star Trek because she wasn't a stereotypical cardboard cutout".

When Barbara passed away, her husband made the announcement on Facebook and wrote the following,

“My beloved Barbara, my partner in all things for more than forty years, passed through eternity’s gate yesterday evening after a cruel battle with cancer.

She was wise and compassionate and beautiful, and her brilliance, kindness and perspicacity touched many....”

“.... She was fountain of original ideas and possessed a unique depth of understanding. Tosia and Rick and Jon and I and all her family and friends will miss her terribly. But now, I know, she is truly free to dance.”

Bryon Fuller wrote “Safe journey to STO’VO’KOR and beyond, Barbara March”.

STARTREK universe wrote “We’re saddened to report the passing of Barbara March who made her mark on the STAR TREK universe with her memorable performance as the fierce Klingon, Lursa.”

Barbara March-Scarfe

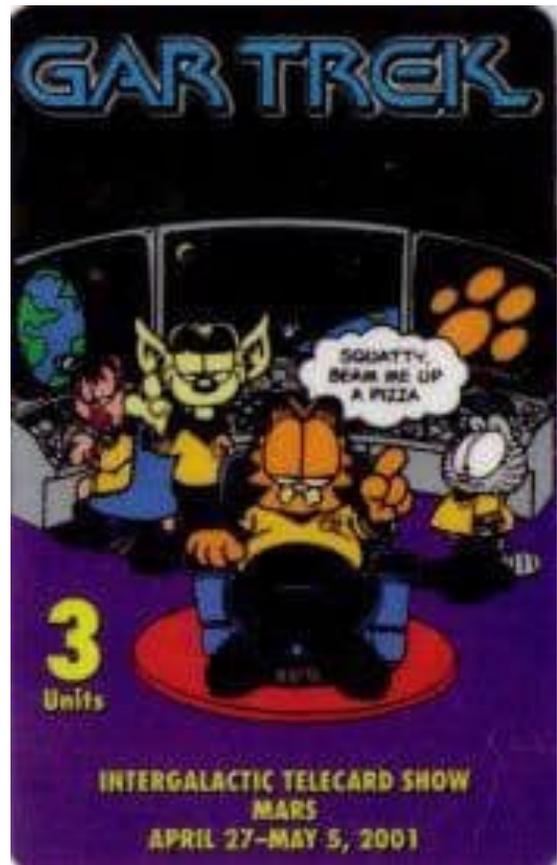
October 9, 1953 - August 11, 2019

Age 65 at her passing

You will be greatly missed

You will always be remembered

Qapla’



See you



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