



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CEDAR FALLS NATIVE HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPACE PROGRAM**

HOUSTON, TX (June 23, 2008) – Cedar Falls native and United Space Alliance employee Jean Shimpach Griffin was recently recognized as a Space Flight Awareness (SFA) honoree for her work in support of NASA's Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs at Kennedy Space Center.

A University of Northern Iowa graduate, Griffin serves as a senior technical writer and was recognized for her exemplary work in preparing, editing, and publishing the Ground Launch Sequencer Description Document. This highly visible document, which is required for each mission, is sent to personnel at virtually every location across the country that provides support for the Space Shuttle Program. It is critical that this document is accurate and current, as it also is used in the development of the Ground Launch Sequencer application software set. As a technical writer, Griffin is also responsible for the documentation of numerous other application software systems that are used during the countdown and launch of the Space Shuttle.

"Working on the Space Shuttle Program has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," said Griffin. "I never dreamed I would be a part of such a great team. I am proud to say that this job has been the thrill of a lifetime."

As an SFA honoree, Griffin received a tour of Kennedy Space Center and viewed the launch of Space Shuttle Discovery on May 31 at the Banana Creek VIP viewing area. Griffin was accompanied by her mother, Virginia Shimpach.

Griffin currently resides in Cocoa, Florida, with her husband, Don. The Griffins have two children. Jason, Khriissy, and Hunter live in Houston, Texas. Angela lives in Rockledge, Florida.

The SFA Program is a NASA safety and awareness managed motivational program geared at ensuring that every employee involved in human space flight is aware of the importance of their role in promoting astronaut safety and mission success in the critical, challenging task of flying humans in the hostile environment of space by communicating and educating the government and industry workforce about human space flight.

United Space Alliance is a world leader in space operations with extensive experience in all aspects of the field. Headquartered in Houston, USA has 10,000 employees working in Texas, Florida and Alabama. Currently, USA is applying its broad range of capabilities to NASA's Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Constellation programs as well as to space operations customers in the commercial and international space industry sectors.

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