

**Documentary Video  
on Reactor Facility  
Premieres at  
Sandusky State  
Theatre**

Video  
Premiere

“Of Ashes and Atoms”

It was history with a touch of Hollywood on the evening of July 14, when more than 700 residents of Erie County - and beyond - turned out at the Sandusky State Theatre for the premiere of the documentary video, "Of Ashes and Atoms." The documentary, produced and directed by Jim Polaczynski of NASA Glenn contractor InDyne, Inc. and narrated by actress and Ohio resident Kate Mulgrew (of Star Trek: Voyager), provided a rich history of the Reactor Facility at NASA Plum Brook Station, the only one NASA ever built (and is currently being decommissioned).

The story of the nearly two-hour video is told through the eyes and words of the men and women who worked at the facility between 1962 and 1973, many of whom still live in the area and attended the premiere. It also traces the history of the land that is now home to Plum Brook Station (for further details on the premiere, see articles in July 2004 and October 2004 editions of Decommissioning News, the quarterly project newsletter, which can be found on the Newsletters Page of this Website).

The video premiere was preceded by a reception for NASA retirees who participated in the documentary (providing technical assistance and/or their reflections in taped interviews), an event also attended by NASA officials - who had provided funding and other support for the project and by members of the Decommissioning Community Workgroup, who provide community input into the decommissioning of the Reactor Facility.

NASA is in the process of distributing - to area schools, libraries and community organizations - DVD copies of the documentary video; as well as a pictorial history of the Reactor Facility, "NASA's Nuclear Frontier." If your organization would like a copy of the video and book, please leave a message in the Mailbox on this Website, where you are also welcome to take our brief, interactive survey.



# “Of Ashes and Atoms” July 2004 Video Premiere



At a reception before the premiere, Mike Blotzer (foreground, right) - Chief of Environmental Management at NASA Glenn - presented plaques of recognition to NASA retirees and Community Workgroup members. Blotzer's office provided the funding for the documentary video and pictorial history book on the Reactor Facility. To his left is NASA Glenn History Officer Kevin Coleman who coordinated the research into the video and book.



NASA retirees and family members catch up at the pre-Premiere reception.



More than 700 people turned out for the premiere



Just before the premiere, the audience heard remarks from Reactor Facility Decommissioning Project Manager Tim Polich (left), NASA Glenn History Officer Kevin Coleman (center) and documentary producer-director Jim Polaczynski (right)



Producer-director Jim Polaczynski (at left) talks with Community Workgroup members John Blakeman (center) and Mark Bohne (right).



NASA retiree Len Homyak and wife Jo, of Huron, were featured in the documentary video.



NASA retirees were enthusiastic in their praise for the documentary, saying that it accurately captured their time together at the Reactor Facility and brought back a lot of good memories.