

## **I REMEMBER COMSAT**

Welcome to I Remember COMSAT.

The response to I Remember COMSAT has been overwhelming. It is clear that so many former COMSAT employees have vivid memories of their time at COMSAT and of the groundbreaking developments in the field of satellite technology that the company was responsible for.

Responses cover the entire timeframe of COMSAT's existence – from the adoption of the Communications Satellite Act in 1962, the early days of the company's existence at Tregaron and L Street, to the move to L'Enfant Plaza and the establishment of COMSAT Laboratories in Clarksburg, MD. As the company grew and matured, it expanded into other areas as well, some wise and some not so wise with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight. And while there were often internal disagreements as to the internal strategic direction in which the company should go, some of which resulted in the creation of other companies that often found themselves in competition with COMSAT, the belief that satellite connectivity would be critical in promoting world peace and understanding remained at the core of all of those involved.

Most significantly, there was a special camaraderie that existed throughout, whether in the form of golf tournaments or softball teams, Friday afternoon social gatherings or holiday celebrations, all of that contributed to the unique “vibe” that was associated with the COMSAT story. The story that is told here in I Remember COMSAT is a compilation of the many remembrances provided.

COMSAT was special because:

Cedric Baxter: “It was the best and most fulfilling job of my career. I joined COMSAT and saw the world.”

Celeste Ford: “Attribute all my success to a great start at COMSAT and a great team of people in Palo Alto. “

Andrew Lopatkin: “COMSAT followed my professional life long after I left.”

John Hewitt: “I will participate in this historic endeavor to help the World better understand the many accomplishments by COMSAT and the COMSAT staff. “

Ron Miyasoto: “I thank COMSAT for my wonderful career.”

In the installments that will follow, as we endeavor to publish them, the contributors speak for themselves as to why COMSAT was so memorable and special. The contributions are arranged in the following order. We begin with what I would call “The Big Picture” which focuses on COMSAT's place in history. In particular, one contribution from Roger Cochetti goes a long way to capturing the historic significance of COMSAT, its creation and its unique role in shaping a better world for all. That is followed by a section that is labeled “Short Takes” which includes those remembrances that are more focused in nature on very specific aspects of the COMSAT experience, as recollected by former employees. The third section, will be labeled “The

Complete Story,” consists of more detailed recollections spanning greater time periods of COMSAT’s history.

One thing that I wish to stress is that this is intended as a dynamic, living document, which means that additional contributions are welcome at any time. Indeed, we hope that those reading these remembrances but not having yet contributed their own will be inspired to do so, so that the story that is told can be made more complete.

Finally, just a brief word on editorial revisions. As much as possible, I used the text of the contribution exactly as submitted. In some cases, additional comments specifically addressed to me (i.e., thanking COMARA for this undertaking) or comments of a more personal nature from the commenter were deleted. I have also edited out any personal identification information accompanying the submission (i.e., phone number or email address). Lastly, in a few submissions, there may be a series of asterisks subdividing the contribution; that simply is an indication that the discrete elements of the contribution were submitted at different times.

Maury Mechanick  
COMARA President  
COMSAT employee number 4299 (I think)  
February 1982 – December 2001