

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top portion shows a city skyline at night with illuminated buildings. The bottom portion shows a space shuttle launch, with the shuttle ascending and a large plume of fire and smoke trailing behind it. The text is overlaid on this background.

**Paul E. Thompson** is Branch Chief of the Structural Design, Development, and Analysis Branch in the Structural Design and Analysis Division at Marshall Space Flight Center. Born and raised in Florence, Alabama, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and began his career with NASA at MSFC in the fall of 1985. He has spent his entire 37-and-a-half-year career in the functionally same organization (whose name has changed several times due to reorganizations), progressing steadily over that time. He became a Team Lead for the Structural Development Team in 1998 and held that position until becoming Deputy Branch Chief in 2014, prior to being selected Branch Chief, a position he has held since 2016. He has been lead design engineer for several vehicle projects in his career and considers having designed structural hardware that flew aboard the space shuttle to deliver the Canada Arm 2 robotic arm to the International Space Station his most prized accomplishment. He oversees a team of 20 civil servants and 25 contractors in his present position. He received a NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal in 2021. A proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., he is married to Rhonda Childress-Thompson, also a NASA engineer. Paul is the father of two sons: Paul, a marketing analyst in Atlanta, and Ian, a fourth-year medical school student at the University of South Alabama.

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