

THOSE MEN ON THE MOON



Most people know the first man to walk on the moon was Neil Armstrong, who uttered those famous words: “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

That was on July 21, 1969. With that accomplishment, Armstrong secured a place in the history books.

But do you know the name of the last man to walk on the moon? He was a seasoned astronaut named Eugene Cernan, who was commander of the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972 – the final Apollo lunar landing. He was the 11th person to

walk on the moon and the most recent man on the moon, since he was the last to re-enter the Lunar Module *Challenger*. Cernan was accompanied on the mission by Harrison Schmitt, the lunar module pilot, and Ronald E. Evans, command module pilot.

As Cernan prepared to climb up the lunar module ladder for the last time, he paused and spoke these words:

“As I take man’s last step from the surface, back home for some time to come – but we believe not too long into the future – I’d like to just say what I believe history will record. That America’s challenge of today has forged man’s destiny of tomorrow. And, as we leave the moon at Taurus-Littrow, we leave as we came and, God willing, as we shall return, with peace and hope for all mankind. Godspeed the crew of Apollo 17.”

Although Eugene Cernan will never be a household name the way Neil Armstrong is, he made an indelible extraterrestrial mark that will still be legible in 50,000 years: he wrote his daughter Tracy’s initials (TDC) in the dust of the moon.

We tend to think that only the rich, the famous or the powerful have influence in our world. But most of us have been impacted by someone who will never rise to the level of celebrity or make it onto a who’s-who list.

The Book of Judges in the Bible contains the stories of people like Samuel, Gideon, Deborah and Barak, but it also includes a brief account of someone you’ve probably never heard of – Shamgar.



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He gets just one verse devoted to his rescue and rule: “After Ehud, Shamgar son of Anath became judge. He delivered Israel by striking down 600 Philistines with an ox goad” (Judges 3:31).

That’s all we know. But for the Israelites of his day, he was a man of tremendous influence. Shamgar’s life is a lesson for us all:

Influence is not about our increase; it’s about blessing those we serve. That’s how we have maximum impact.

And for those of us in Life Care and Century Park, we have daily opportunities to influence for good those around us.

– Beecher Hunter