“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky.”

-Dr. Ronald E. McNair

DR. RONALD E. McNAIR, the second African American to fly in space, was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina to Carl and Pearl McNair. He attended North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, where, in 1971, he graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. degree in physics. In 1976, at the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. degree in physics from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ronald E. McNair was nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics. In 1978, he was one of 35 applicants selected from a pool of ten thousand for NASA’s space shuttle program and assigned as a mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the shuttle Challenger.

In addition to his academic achievements, he was the recipient of three honorary doctorates and numerous fellowships and commendations. He was also a sixth degree black belt in karate and an accomplished jazz saxophonist. He was married to Cheryl Moore and had two children, Reginald Ervin and Joy Cheray.

On the morning of January 28, 1986, McNair and his six crew members died in an explosion aboard the space shuttle Challenger. In his memory, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program to encourage low income, first generation college students to enroll in graduate studies. This program is dedicated to the high standard of achievement that Ronald E. McNair’s life represented.

The Impact of Adolescent Child Abuse on Psychosocial Outcomes

Despite the existing literature on child victimization, the extent of research on youth victimization is limited (Deakin, 2006). This shortage highlights the importance and need for mental health practitioners to examine the impact of early victimization in childhood and its relation to psychosocial outcomes of adolescents. The present quantitative study examined an existing nationally representative dataset of 17,366 adolescents who completed the 2009 Dane County Youth Survey. Adolescents who indicated they were physically or sexually abused were analyzed across a variety of measures that include depression/suicidal ideation, bully victimization, alcohol use, delinquency, and bully perpetration. The purpose of this study was to analyze mean level differences between adolescents who have experienced child abuse within 30 days, more than 30 days but less than a year, more than a year ago, and never, utilizing four separate analyses of variance (MANOVA). MANOVA results indicated that the subgroup of 30 days or less scored significantly higher on all psychosocial outcomes in comparison to the other subgroups. Although the subgroup of 30 days or less had higher rates on all psychosocial outcomes, all other subgroups still displayed significantly higher scores on the outcomes when compared to the adolescents in the never group. Results from this study could further aid in gaining a better understanding of victimization and related mental health outcomes as well as lead to better treatments for victimized youth.