



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Jim Hartz



The RNASA Foundation is pleased to have one of our original Master of Ceremonies, Jim Hartz, return to host this evening's activities. Hartz served as MC for the RNASA annual banquets from the 1991 event honoring Lew Allen to the 1996 event honoring Robert Crippen. He joined the RNASA Board of Advisors in 1996.

An award-winning broadcast journalist, Hartz is perhaps best known as the host (with Barbara Walters) of NBC's *Today Show* from 1974 to 1977. He was an NBC News correspondent from 1964 to 1979. He covered the Gemini and Apollo programs, reporting from the Kennedy Space Center, Houston and New York.

Hartz also has written articles for many national magazines, including *National Geographic* and *Reader's Digest*. Commissioned to write an article for *Reader's Digest* he was the first reporter to fly in the SR71 spy plane, at Mach 3, above 80,000 feet. It was titled, "Alone, Unarmed and Untouchable." Earlier, as a military and aerospace reporter for NBC News, Hartz was the first reporter to fly the U2 spy plane and the F15 Eagle. He also has flown with the U.S. Navy precision flying team *Blue Angels*. He was a finalist in the Journalist in Space project before it was cancelled in the wake of the *Challenger* accident.


He also is the former host and chief correspondent of *Innovation*, a PBS science and high technology series that earned two Emmys and the New York Film Festival's Gold Medal Award for Best Science Program. He was cohost with actress Mary Martin of *Over Easy*, a popular PBS series, and he served as commentator for the *American Viewpoints* series on Time, Inc.'s cable TV systems. Hartz hosted *Asia Now*, a joint venture of PBS and NHK (Japanese public television). He visited Asia more than 30 times while working on this project, logging nearly a million airline miles.

During his broadcasting career, Hartz has received many awards, including five Emmys, the highest honor given for television broadcasting by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He earned Emmys for his coverage of the *Apollo* moon flights; for his reporting on the 1973 *Middle East War* during which he was under fire; for an exposé on the dangers of materials used in children's camping tents, and for a documentary, *Hold for Justice*. He was nominated for an Emmy as best host for a talk show (*Today*, NBC, 1975), best host for a talk show (*Over Easy*, PBS, 1982), and as best host (*Innovation*, PBS, WNET, 1983). He won two Ace awards, highest recognition of the cable television industry, for his commentaries for Time-Life on *American Viewpoints*.

He was recently a Visiting Professional Scholar at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University, where he co-authored a book on the historic relationship between the media and science and technology entitled *Worlds Apart*. His collaborator on the book was Dr. Rick Chappell, former science astronaut and associate director for science at the Marshall Spaceflight Center.

He is a spokesman for major internal communications for Johnson & Johnson, the world's largest consumer pharmaceutical and healthcare company. He has traveled to China, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Mexico, France, England and Germany for Johnson and Johnson.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Hartz began his broadcasting career there. In 1990, Hartz was named to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Hartz is married to Alexandra Livingstone Dickson, L.C.S.W., a psychotherapist in private practice, and is the father of three children and six grandchildren. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia. 



Barbara Walters & Jim Hartz