Board of Advisors

Abbey, George W.S.

Albaugh, James F.

Aldrich, Arnold D.

Aldridge, Edward C.

Augustine, Norman R.

Bolden, Charles F.

Bowles, David E.

Brandenstein, Dan

Cabana, Robert D.

Callahan, Lisa

Campbell, Donald J.

Carr, Jeffrey E.

Carreau, Mark E.

Cazes, David

Chilton, Kevin P.

Coats, Michael L.

Collins, Eileen M.

Covey, Richard O.

Crippen, Robert

Culbertson, Frank L.

Dittemore, Ronald D.

Elachi, Charles

Elbon, John W.

Engle, Joe H.

Flynt, G. Allen

Free, James M.

Fuqua, Donald

Gerstenmaier, William H.

Geyer, Mark

Griffin, Gerald D.

Griffin, Michael D.

Grunsfeld, John M.

Hartz, Jim

Heflin, J. Milt

Hendershot, Cynthia

Hernandez, Jorge

Hieb, Richard J.

Holloway, Tommy W.

Hutchinson, Neil B.

Hutchison, Kay Bailey

Johnson, Sandra G.

Karas, John C.

Kavandi, Janet L.

Kerwin, Joseph P.

Kranz, Eugene F.

Kropp, Debbie

Lightfoot, Robert

Lunney, Glynn S.

Magnus, Sandra H.

May, Todd A.

McBride, David D.

McDonald, Vernon

Meyerson, Robert E.

Miller, Lon

Mitchell, Bob

Mulqueen, Mark E.

Nield, George C.

O'Brien, Miles

Ochoa, Ellen

Parsons, William W.

Pavlovich, J. Gregory

Pickens, Thomas B.

Readdy, William F.

Reightler, Kenneth S.

Schmitt, Harrison H.

Scolese, Christopher J.

Shaw, Brewster H.

Sirangelo, Mark N.

Stafford, Thomas P.

Staples, William A.

Stegemoeller, Charles M.

Stephens, Richard D.

Suffredini, Michael

Swallow, Edward M.

Truly, Richard H.

Vantine, William

Wagner, Elizabeth

Whitesides, George

**For Immediate Release**

March 25, 2019

Media Contact Lindsey Cousins

281-480-2486

lindsey@baysidegraphics.net

**Rotary Gala Honors Heroes of Space**

**HOUSTON, Texas (March 25, 2019).** The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (**RNASA**) Foundation will recognize people in the space industry at their annual space awards gala on Friday, April 26, 2019, at the Houston Hyatt Regency.

The RNASA Foundation was formed by the Space Center Rotary Club in 1985, to publicly recognize the unsung heroes of America’s space program alongside the more well-known achievers. This year, the RNASAFoundation will present the 2019 National Space Trophy, to **Mr. David W. Thompson**, retired President and CEO of Orbital ATK.

Former NASA Astronaut, **Mr. Frank Culbertson**, will present the prestigious award to Mr. Thompson. Special guest speakers will include **Mr. William Shatner**, best known for his role as Captain James Kirk, NASA Administrator **Jim Bridenstine**, former Rotary International President **Ron Burton** and NASA Spokesperson, **Bob Jacobs**.

**Morgan Brennan, co host of CNBC’s Squawk Alley,** will serve as Emcee and Gemini/Apollo Astronaut **Lt. Gen.** **Thomas Stafford**, USAF (Ret.), will present an **OMEGA** watch to Thompson at the closing of the program.

The National Space Trophy honoree is selected each year by the RNASA Foundation's Board of Advisors. This board represents a Who's Who of government and corporate aerospace leaders, including former Trophy and Space Communicator Award recipients.

In addition to the National Space Trophy, stellar awards will be presented to people in early career, mid career, late career, and team categories. RNASA Chairman Rodolfo González said, “We received an impressive 140 stellar nominations this year, 36 government and 104 corporate.” The nominations came from Aerie Aerospace, Aerojet Rocketdyne, ARES Corporation, The Boeing Company, Booz Allen Hamilton, CACI, Inc., Collins Aerospace, Jacobs, KBRWyle, Leidos, Lockheed Martin, MRI Technologies, NASA Glenn Research Center, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA Johnson Space Center, NASA Kennedy Space Center, NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, NASA Stennis Space Center, Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems, Oceaneering Space Systems, Raytheon Company, SAIC, Sierra Nevada Corporation, SpaceX, United Launch Alliance, and the US Air Force.

Of all the nominations, only a few Stellar awards are given, and are announced the evening of the banquet. The winners will receive engraved marble trophies generously sponsored by Northrop Grumman. The trophies will be presented by NASA Astronauts **Mr. Mark Vande Hei** and **Dr. Shannon Walker**.

The RNASA Stellar Awards Evaluation Panel ranks the nominations received from industry and government in all categories, based on whose accomplishments hold the greatest promise for furthering activities in space and the extent to which the nominee meets the goal of recognizing "unsung heroes”. The 2019 Stellar judges are **Michael Coats, Arnold Aldrich, Eileen Collins,** and **Kevin Chilton.**

The Stellar Award nominees and team representatives will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the Johnson Space Center and a luncheon where all are recognized with mounted certificates and a **Fisher Space Pen** donated by the company. The **Fisher Space Pen** was originally carried by the astronauts of the Apollo moon missions and is still used on manned space flights to this day. They are precision assembled, hand tested, and guaranteed to perform underwater, at any angle including upside down, in extreme temperatures, and of course in zero gravity. The keynote speaker at the luncheon will beastronaut **Scott Tingle**.

The Stellar Awards Committee Chairman **Jennifer Devolites**, RNASA Foundation Chairman Rodolfo González, RNASA Committee member **Duane Ross**, and Space Center Rotary Club President **Nancy Anderson** will also address the nominees at the Stellar Awards luncheon.

The reception begins at 6 p.m., and the program starts at 7 p.m with a welcome by RNASA Chairman **Rodolfo Gonzalez.** Following will be a presentation of the colors by **Clear Brook High School Army JROTC**, accompanied with the national anthem sung by the **Clear Creek High School Chamber Singers Solo Quartet. Reverend Tracye Ruffin, Retired Hospice Chaplain, Disciples of Christ-Christian Church** will provide the invocation. After dinner, the awards ceremony will kick off with a multimedia show summarizing the year's space events produced by **Space City Films**.

The RNASA Foundation invites members of the public and the aerospace community to attend the black-tie event. Individual tickets are $300, and corporate tables range from $2,500 to $5,500. Please use <http://www.rnasa.org/tables.html> to reserve your table for the RNASA Banquet, and for information about sponsorships and tickets. To reserve a hotel room, please use <http://www.rnasa.org/houston.html> at the Houston Hyatt Regency.

*About RNASA: The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation was founded by the Space Center Rotary Club of Houston, Texas in 1985 to organize and coordinate an annual event to recognize outstanding achievements in space and create greater public awareness of the benefits of space exploration. The nonprofit Foundation presents the National Space Trophy and Stellar Awards each year.*