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 **2014 RNASA Stellar Award Winners Announced**

**HOUSTON, Texas** (April 17. 2014).  The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (**RNASA**) Foundation honored the dedication of the space workers at their annual awards banquet on Friday, April 11, 2014, by presenting the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Stellar Awards.

Every year, the aerospace community anxiously awaits the announcement of the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Stellar Award winners.

The 2014 Stellar Awards Evaluation Panel, **Dr. Glynn S. Lunney**, **Arnold D. Aldrich**, and **General Kevin P. Chilton, USAF (Ret.),** selected the winners based on which accomplishments hold the greatest promise for furthering future activities in space and how well it meets the goal of recognizing "unsung heroes."

Out of 164 nominations received, the Panel selected 35 individuals and ten teams for recognition.

Prior to the evening's festivities, all nominees were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of Johnson Space Center and a luncheon at the South Shore Harbour Hotel.  Stellar Awards Committee Chair **Jennifer Devolites** welcomed the nominees, "You're here because you are excellent," and asked the nominees to consider using their excellence to provide leadership to others, take on mentoring, and to also take risks and get outside of their comfort zones with regard to what they already do well.

RNASA Treasurer **Geoff Atwater** then told them that the RNASA Foundation's purpose is to "encourage, recognize, honor, and celebrate U.S. space achievements. We're here to honor you."

He introduced Space Center Rotary Club President, **Sheryl Berg**, who said that “Rotary, as the largest community service organization in the world, has played a major part in ridding the word of polio.  At last year's RNASA luncheon, polio was confined to four countries.  This year, that number is only 3--that is progress!"

**NASA Astronaut Dr. Stanley G. Love**, STS-122, was the featured speaker at the Stellar Awards luncheon, and his topic was “Why it’s hard to get to Mars”.

Each nominee received 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 nominees also received copies of former Canadian Space Agency astronaut (STS-74, STS-100, and International Space Station mission Soyuz TMA-07M), **Chris A. Hadfield’s** book **“An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth**”.  Hadfield was honored with RNASA’s 2014 Space Communicator Award during the RNASA Gala.

All the Stellar nominees had their photo taken as they received a special commemorative certificate with a United States flag that was flown aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*, STS-108, December 5 - 17, 2001.

The Stellar Award winners were announced at the evening gala by Astronauts **Col. (Ret.) Douglas G. Hurley**, STS-127 and [STS-135](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-135%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-135), and **Dr. Karen LuJean Nyberg**, STS-124, who then presented them with engraved marble trophies donated by **ATK**.  The winners in each of the four categories, Early Career, Mid-Career, Late Career and Team are:

2014 Stellar Award Winners in the Early Career Category

**Kavya Manyapu of Boeing** - Exceptional commercial crew spacecraft test planning and flight test article design fidelity.

**Adam J. Amar of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Outstanding efforts in support of human spacecraft development, and pioneering contributions to the field of multi-physics analytical tool development.

**Shana Diez of SpaceX** - Outstanding technical expertise and leadership of reusability for the SpaceX Grasshopper and F9R development vehicle programs, representing critical steps toward the goal of building reusable rockets.

**Capt. Philip H. Swenson of United States Air Force** - Exemplary technical skill producing Atlas V rockets and outstanding leadership in the successful integration, test and launch of National Reconnaissance Office satellites.

**Cary Maunder of Orbital Sciences Corporation** - Outstanding technical contributions in designing and developing the Generalized Predictor Guidance and Nutation/Precession Control Algorithm for the Minotaur V LADEE mission.

**Charles W. Gray of Booz Allen Hamilton** - Exceptional innovation and leadership in the ISS program office.

**Jerald A. Webber of Boeing** - Outstanding achievements in advancing human spaceflight through excellence in leadership of propulsion systems analysis and design.

**Capt. David E. Hillshafer of United States Air Force** - Exceptional leadership in implementing innovative solutions to provide a new on-demand weather capability for combatant commanders and the space community.

2014 Stellar Award Winners in the Mid Career Category

**Robert J. Durkin of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Outstanding leadership of the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory during post-Shuttle transition while evolving commercial services in the mission critical, government facility.

**James Nicholson of Orbital Sciences Corporation** - Outstanding leadership and technical Management as Chief Engineer of Orbital Sciences Cygnus Spacecraft.

**Maj. Robert J. Beal of United States Air Force** - Intense leadership and drive in the development of the next-generation imaging and space-control technologies, and foundational efforts developing improved processes for national systems.

**Brian R. Sproles of Aerojet Rocketdyne** - Outstanding leadership to the test operations of human rated rocket propulsion systems for more than twenty seven years.

**Robert A. Douglass of United States Air Force** - Exceptional leadership of space missions, including expertise that resulted in the successful launch of the NASA Lunar Atmosphere Dust and Exploration Experiment and the Operationally Responsive Space Office Space Test Program-3 satellite.

**Michael R. Orlowski of Orbital Sciences Corporation** - Outstanding leadership as the Mission Operations Director of the Orbital COTS Cygnus -D1 Demonstration Mission and follow-on Commercial Re-Supply Services Missions.

**Michael S. Dorsch of Orbital Sciences Corporation** - Outstanding technical leadership of the development of the new Antares Medium Class Launch Vehicle that resulted in a fully successful first flight to orbit on April 21st, 2013.

**Ian A. Ballinger of Keystone Engineering Company** - Pioneering industry engineering leadership in the field of spacecraft propellant tanks and composite overwrapped pressure vessels.

2014 Stellar Award Winners in the Late Career Category

**Scott T. Vogt of Aerojet Rocketdyne** - Outstanding leadership in the development, production, and flight of critical manned flight systems spanning a successful career of over 35 years.

**Thomas H. Freeman of United States Air Force** - Exceptional leadership of space missions, including expertise that resulted in the successful launch of the NASA Lunar Atmosphere Dust and Exploration Experiment and the Operationally Responsive Space Office Space Test Program-3 satellite.

**Ty Dalton of ATK** - Innovation in composite and metallic structures for human spaceflight and unmanned space vehicles.

**Keith Davies of Orbital Sciences Corporation** - Outstanding leadership and technical management as Lead Cygnus Vehicle Manager.

**Lucy V. Kranz of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Outstanding leadership and expertise in the programmatic control of large Human Spaceflight Programs and personal dedication to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s mission.

**Ross A. Hewitt of Aerojet Rocketdyne** - Outstanding leadership in the development, production, and flight of critical rocket propulsion systems spanning 50 years.

**Maj. Gen. William N. McCasland of United States Air Force** - Pioneering space solutions for the warfighter and the Nation by developing new technologies, acquiring and operating the latest space systems, and influencing national space policy for over 30 years.

**Tom A. Mulder of Boeing** - Outstanding contributions to Boeing’s Commercial Crew Transportation System development.

**Dr. David Q. King of Aerojet Rocketdyne** - Outstanding technical leadership in the advancement of electrical propulsion for thirty-seven years.

2014 Stellar Award Winners in the Team Category

**Contingency EVA Team of UTC Aerospace Systems** - Outstanding achievement in preparation for and execution of a contingency EVA to eliminate an ammonia leak that jeopardized the ISS.

**Cygnus Development Team of Orbital Sciences Corporation** - Successful development and launch of a new safe, reliable, and affordable commercial space transportation system, enabling future growth of our Nation’s space program.

**Space Launch System (SLS) Team of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center** - Exceptional technical and programmatic excellence in the design, development, and maturation of the Space Launch System, this nation’s next great heavy lift launch vehicle.

**Cygnus Guidance, Navigation & Targeting Team of Draper Laboratory** - Outstanding technical excellence and innovative, first time accomplishments in guidance, navigation, and targeting software for the COTS Cygnus vehicle.

**International Space Station Primary Structure Life Extension Team of Boeing** - Superior team work, dedication, and technical proficiency demonstrated in successfully extending the International Space Station primary structure life through 2020.

**Space Surveillance Telescope (SST) Team of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency** - Outstanding technical excellence in the development and demonstration of a ground-based telescope to address gaps in observational coverage that hamper space situational awareness in operational space.

**ISS Integrated Comm Unit  (ICU) Development Team of Boeing** - Forward-thinking and leadership in the development of the integrated communication unit, providing ISS expanded science data bandwidth and a flexible architecture for the future.

**Composite Cryotank Technology Demonstration (CCTD) Team of NASA Glenn Research Center** - Outstanding technical excellence in development and demonstration of low cost, lightweight composite cryogenic propellant tanks for future heavy lift vehicles and other in-space applications.

**Antares Launch Vehicle Program of Orbital Sciences Corporation** - Successful development of the new Antares Medium Class Launch Vehicle that resulted in a fully successful first flight to orbit on April 21st, 2013.

**James Webb Space Telescope Engineering/Manufacturing Team of ATK** - Successful completion of the state-of-the-art thermally stable JWST primary mirror support structure, a significant milestone for the NASA Flagship mission.

Visit [http://www.rnasa.org/photos.html](http://www.rnasa.org/photos.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for images from the event. Individual photos of each nominee and winner are available upon request.

 The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation’s black tie Gala on April 11, 2014, was recorded live, in its entirety, by Space City Films and was aired on NASA TV twice on April 15, and twice on April 16, 2014.  NASA TV is carried by DirecTV, Dish Network, TVRO, several cable providers, and **[UStream](http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/ustream/%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/ustream/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**.

*About the RNASA Foundation: 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 National Space Trophy and other awards were presented this year at the RNASA Gala on April 11, 2014.*

Caption for photos:

**Stellar Award Winners - Early Career:**

 L to R: Doug Hurley (presenting), Capt. David Hillshafer, Charles Gray, Cary Maunder, Capt. hilip Swenson, Shana Diez, Adam Amar, Kavya Manyapu, Karen Nyberg (presenting), *Not pictured:* Jerald Webber  (RNASA photo 2014)

**Stellar Award Winners - Mid-Career**

L to R: Karen Nyberg (presenting), Ian Ballinger, David Steffy (for Michael Dorsch), Michael Orlowski, Brian Sproles, James Nicholson, Robert Durkin, Doug Hurley (presenting), *Not pictured:*Maj. Robert Beal*,*Robert Douglass (RNASA photo 2014)

**Stellar Award Winners- Late Career**

L to R: Doug Hurley (presenting), Tom Mulder, Ross Hewitt, Lucy Kranz, Maj. Gen. W. Neil McCasland, Keith Davies, Ty Dalton, Scott Vogt, Dr. David King, Karen Nyberg (presenting), *Not Pictured:*Thomas Freeman (RNASA photo 2014)

**Stellar Award Winners –Team**

L to R: Karen Nyberg (presenting), Ed Monteiro-Knight (ISS Intg. Comm, Boeing), Eric Pearce (Space Surveillance Telescope, DARPA), Liang Shen (ISS Primary Structure Life Extension Team, Boeing), Justin Jackson (Composite Cryotank Tech Demo, NASA GRC), Louis Breger (Cygnus Guidance, Navigation & Targeting Team, Draper), Michael Laidley (Antares Launch Vehicle, Orbital), Todd May (Space Launch System Team, NASA MSFC), William Hollister (Contingency EVA  Team, UTC), Frank DeMauro (Cygnus Development Team, Orbital), Robert Hellekson (James Webb Space Telescope, ATK), Doug Hurley (presenting) (RNASA photo 2014)