



**RNASA**

ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD  
FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

## For Immediate Release

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## RNASA Foundation honors Pamela Melroy, Marc Havican and Stellar Winners



Pam Melroy (center) receiving the National Space Trophy, presented by Stephen Koerner (left) and Mike Coats (right).

HOUSTON, Texas (April 29, 2024). The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation presented the National Space Trophy (NST) to **Pamela Melroy**, retired NASA Deputy Administrator, at the annual RNASA black-tie Space Awards Gala on April 25, 2025, at the Houston Hyatt Regency. In addition, the Space Communicator Award was presented Space City Films Owner **Marc Havican**.

RNASA Foundation Chairman **Rodolfo González** welcomed guests to the gala, saying, “the RNASA Foundation mission is to encourage, recognize, honor and celebrate U.S. space achievement. The members of the foundation truly appreciate the enormity of work that tonight’s audience represents.”

The **Clear Brook High School JROTC Color Guard** presented the colors, followed by **Danny Myers**, who sang the National Anthem. **Dr. Steven Laufer**, Senior Pastor of River Oaks Baptist Church, provided the invocation.

After dinner, the program kicked off with a year-in-review film by **Space City Films**. **Kristin Fisher**, CNN Space and Defense Correspondent, served as the emcee. In her opening remarks, Kristin said, “if the Goddard dinner is the space prom then I think this is the space academy awards - a night to recognize all of your achievements over the last 12 months...raise your glasses - to those who launched, to those who landed, to Pam, to Marc, to all of tonight’s winners, cheers.”

Stellar Awards were presented to 23 individuals and 6 teams. The Stellar Award winners were announced by NASA Astronauts **Randy Bresnik** and **Kate Rubins**, who then presented them with engraved marble trophies. The Stellar Awards were presented in Early Career, Mid-Career, Late Career, and Team categories.

Griffin Communications Group President **Jeff Carr** presented the Space Communicator Award to Marc Havican. He remarked, “It’s important that we tell the stories of our adventures in space. We make it a point at RNASA to make sure that we celebrate the storytellers that make what we do widely accessible, understandable and memorable. Our honoree this year is Marc Havican, a filmmaker, a master storyteller with a special gift for drawing audiences into our world. He has an incredible talent for placing his audience in a moment that can be illuminating, can be intense and humanizing all at the same time.”

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Marc Havican (left) receiving the Space Communicator Award, presented by Jeff Carr (right).

When **Havican** accepted his award, he delighted the audience with the story of a cherished childhood memory. As a young boy, Marc entered and won a contest that enabled him to meet the star of his favorite TV show, Kitrik's Treehouse. When recalling his early visit to the local Houston ABC affiliate he says "on that day, my life changed forever and the angels sang for me." Havican later relayed "I came to Johnson Space Center in 1989....and I've been telling space stories ever since...I'm one of the lucky people that found what I was put on the Earth to do."

**Mike Coats**, former Johnson Space Center Director, and **Steven Koerner**, Acting Director of Johnson Space Center, presented the prestigious National Space Trophy to Pamela Melroy. While introducing Melroy, Mike commented "she's a wonderful role model for all of our young people as well as current and future generations of aviators and astronauts." Steven went on to say "Pam has grit. As I watch and observe and work with Pam I saw her determined, decisive, strategic, passionate about space flight but perhaps more importantly she has grit."

During her acceptance speech, **Melroy** remarked, "For me, this gala is what gave me a sense of the breadth of achievement in this industry. Space has the opportunity to unify us. What we do is amazing because it's for the benefit of humanity. How many people can say that? The passion that we feel for our mission is what brings us together."

**Scott Altman**, astronaut and ASRC Federal Space Operating Group President, presented an OMEGA Speedmaster watch to Melroy.

A portrait of Melroy was on display at the gala and used as the cover of the souvenir program. The portrait will become part of the National Space Trophy display at Space Center Houston for one year.

RNASA Chairman Rodolfo González concluded the evening by thanking the Foundation's corporate sponsors whose support and achievements made the event possible: Aegis Aerospace, Inc., Aerodyne Industries, The Aerospace Corporation, All Points LLC, Amentum, ARES Corporation ASRC Federal, Astrion, Axiom Space, Barrios Technology, Bastion Technologies Inc., Blue Origin, The Boeing Company, Booz Allen, CACI, Deloitte, Draper, GeoControl Systems, Inc., Honeywell Aerospace Technologies, Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital, Intuitive Machines, JES Tech, KBR, Leidos, Lockheed Martin, MCS Government Services, MORI Associates, MRI Technologies, Northrop Grumman Oceaneering Space Systems, Odyssey Space Research, OMEGA, Rotary District 5890, SAIC, Space Center Houston, SpaceX, TTTech North America, Inc., V2X, and Voyager Space Solutions.

Visit <http://www.rnasa.org/photos.html> for images from the event.

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation's black-tie Gala on April 25, 2025, was recorded live, in its entirety, by Space City Films and is accessible on the website's agenda page, [www.rnasa.org/agenda.html](http://www.rnasa.org/agenda.html).