

## Rotary Space Foundation Recognizes General Kevin Chilton, 25 Individuals, and Seven Teams with Awards

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation celebrated its silver anniversary on May 6, 2011 by presenting the National Space Trophy (NST) to former Commander of U.S. Strategic Command and former Astronaut General Kevin P. Chilton, USAF (Ret.), and recognizing 25 individuals and seven teams with Stellar Awards.

With music by pianist Victoria Reva, the gala at the Houston Hyatt Regency was attended by about a thousand members of the aerospace community from around the nation, including seven of the previous NST winners. Also attending were Congressman Pete Olson and Houston City Councilman for District E, Mike Sullivan.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett welcomed guests to the event, saying, "As a boy who dreamed about space growing up, I really came not to welcome you, but to say thank you."

Houston high school students again participated in the event with the Clear Creek High School JROTC Color Guard (Cadet Col. Cadet Maj. Lucus Duncavage, Cadet CPT Daniel Clemen, Cadet LTC Michael Truitt, and Juan Castillo) presenting the colors, and the national anthem being performed by Clear Springs junior, Bianca Higgins, the winner of the Clear Creek School District's "So You Think You Can Sing" contest.

Father Vincent Nguyen, Pastor of St. Claire of Assisi Catholic Church of Clear Lake provided the invocation. After a spectacular dinner, Space City Films dazzled the audience with a multi-media show displaying the highlights of space achievement during the previous year.

Veteran reporter and emcee Miles O'Brien kicked off the awards portion of the program on a light note with a plan for obtaining a space shuttle orbiter for Houston: have the next crew land it at Ellington near Clear Lake. "Then do what Texans do, claim it as yours and secede from the Union." O'Brien quipped, "How hard can this be?" But, he added more seriously, "I know there's a lot of bruised feelings about what museums the used shuttles go into. But when I think of Houston, I don't think about museums. I don't think about relics. I don't think about docents. I think about doers. To the extent that we bog ourselves down in a debate about where the relics go, I think we take our eye off the ball. The people in this room are all about smoke and fire and speed and exploration. Let's stay focused on that. The final frontier is our goal."

O'Brien delighted the audience with a video spoof he produced about General Chilton's role in the all-astronaut band, Max Q, during his time with NASA from 1987 through 1998. Other former band members including Chris Hadfield and Maj. Gen. Susan Helms appeared in the show.

NASA Astronauts Stephanie D. Wilson and Richard R. Arnold II then took to the podium to present the 2011 RNASA Stellar Awards to two USAF officers, three NASA employees, and 20 individual corporate winners, plus two NASA and five corporate teams. (See end of release for names and citations.)

Astronaut Steven W. Lindsey who commanded the final flight of Space Shuttle Discovery in February, then presented the National Space Trophy to Chilton. He reviewed Chilton's biography, including that he Chilton joined NASA in 1987, flew on STS-49 in 1992, STS-59 in 1994, and STS-76 in 1996. He left NASA in 1998 to rejoin the Air Force. He retired from the Air Force this spring.

Lindsey cited Chilton's "accomplishments and exploits as a fighter pilot, experimental test pilot, astronaut, and superb leader of civilian and military space. He's had a huge impact on our collective professions." Yet, Lindsey said he thinks of him, "as the general who always took time to listen, to mentor, and the guy you knew genuinely cared about you. He's always been approachable. He's always treated everyone with equal respect and care, no matter their position. He's also been able to maintain a successful balance between his four stars and his four daughters." One of Chilton's daughters attended the banquet.

"This is kind of overwhelming for me," Chilton told the crowd. "To be nominated by your peers is a very special thing." He congratulated the Stellar Award winners, saying, "Most Americans don't appreciate the phenomenal work that's still going on every day."

He praised the team of people at Johnson Space Center. "In the 11 years I was with NASA, I felt like I got a PhD in human space flight." He described how the skills and knowledge he gained at NASA served him well when he returned to the Air Force. His astronaut training allowed him to tell the difference between a ballistic missile and a shuttle-like trajectory in data from the North Koreans. His time as deputy program manager for the International Space Station prepared him well for dealing with Pentagon budget issues and negotiating agreements for operations in other countries. "If I was successful at all when I returned to the Air Force, it was because of the 11 years I spent at NASA and learning this business that is so important to us."

Chilton included "the fulfillment of dreams, exploring, answering unanswerable questions, pushing the bar a little further up, trying to get over it," as reasons for "why we get out of bed and come to work in the morning." But he said his own motivation is also more personal, and deeply patriotic. "Someday, in the future, another human being will stand on the Moon. And they'll plant a flag. To me, it matters whether that flag is an American flag or not. Because in the future, when someone does that, the rest of the world is going to look at that country, and say, 'I want to be like those guys.' The human space flight program is not only an inspiration to our youth: it's an inspiration to the entire world. And being a leader in that program is important for the United States of America, and my family."

The evening concluded with Gemini and Apollo veteran Lt. Gen. Thomas Stafford, USAF (Ret.) presenting an OMEGA watch to Chilton. Stafford, who is a three-star general, noted that Chilton is the first astronaut to become a four-star general. "You broke the record." He praised his work for the military, saying, "Our nuclear capability had some issues that had degraded which we can't talk about here tonight. The Secretary of Defense and Congress charged General Chilton with reconstituting our nuclear forces: the Air Force has two thirds of the bombers and ICBMs." Stafford also said that Chilton had been assigned to establish Cyber Command. "What an outstanding job you did for the Air Force and for the country, Chili. We're so proud of you."

RNASA President Rodolfo González ended the evening by thanking the corporate sponsors: The Aerospace Corporation, Alliant Techsystems, Inc. (ATK), ARES Corporation, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation, Barrios Technology, Bastion Technologies, Inc., The Boeing Corporation, Booz Allen Hamilton, Draper Laboratory, Fisher Space Pen, GeoControl Systems, Inc., GHG Corporation, Hamilton Sundstrand, Honeywell, Jacobs, L-3 STRATIS, Lockheed Martin, ManTech International, MEI Technologies, Inc., Oceaneering Space Systems, Omega Watch, Orbital Sciences Corp., Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, SAIC, SpaceX, Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies (SGT), TechTrans International, Inc., UHCL

School of Business, United Space Alliance, and Wyle Integrated Science & Engineering. Proceeds remaining after each year's event are donated to an organization involved in aerospace education.

About the RNASAF Foundation: Founded by the Space Center Rotary Club 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 RNASAF Foundation has presented the National Space Trophy to an outstanding American who has made major contributions to our nation's space program since 1987. This year marked the Foundation's 25th anniversary.

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

#### 2011 RNASAF Stellar Award Winners Announced

At the May 6, 2011, Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASAF) Foundation gala honoring General Kevin Chilton with the National Space Trophy, Stellar Awards were presented to 25 exceptional individuals and seven outstanding teams.

A record of 151 nominations for these awards were received from government, military, and corporate leaders this year. The nominations were carefully reviewed by a Stellar Awards Evaluation Panel consisting of Dr. Christopher C. Kraft Jr., Dr. Glynn S. Lunney, and Arnold D. Aldrich. They selected the winners based on which accomplishments hold the greatest promise for furthering future activities in space, the extent to which the nominee played a key role in the accomplishment, and the extent to which the nominee meets the goal of recognizing "unsung heroes."

The two USAF, three NASA, and 20 individual corporate award winners, plus two NASA and five corporate team winners, were announced at the evening banquet by Astronauts Richard Arnold II and Stephanie Wilson.

Arnold said, "As astronauts, we know first-hand that the safety and success of our missions are due to the exceptional people who go above and beyond every day so that we can fly as safely as possible. The Stellar nominees here tonight truly represent the best in our nation's Space Program."

Wilson added, "The Stellar Awards are important because they honor those who often work behind the scenes and whose careers and accomplishments may not be as visible as others. A panel of experts reviewed the nominee's backgrounds and accomplishments to determine the significance of their contributions to our space program. The breadth and scope of the nominees' work is truly amazing and proof positive that we have a wealth of unusually bright and talented people who are working to ensure that the space program has a very promising future."

Prior to the evening banquet, the nominees enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of Johnson Space Center and a special Stellar Awards Luncheon at the Nassau Bay Hilton. Hubble Servicing Mission (STS-125) Pilot, Captain Gregory C. Johnson, UNS (Ret.) was the featured luncheon speaker. He thanked the nominees for their work, saying, "You all should be highly congratulated for your excellent activities that brought you here. My hat is off to you."

Each nominee received a Fisher Space Pen engraved with the RNASAF logo donated by the Fisher Space Pen company whose president, Mr. Cary Fisher, attended the luncheon and evening event. Each

nominee also received a special commemorative certificate with an American flag that flew in space on STS-127 in July, 2009. The winners received marble trophies donated by Alliant Techsystems, Inc. (ATK).

#### Eight 2011 Stellar Award Winners in the Early Career Category

Michelle M. Gonzalez of ATK - Outstanding achievements on the deceleration system for Ares I and fast track qualification of the booster separation motors, enabling the advancement of human spaceflight.

Stephan Higgs of Oceaneering Space Systems - Outstanding leadership, unwavering attention to detail and exemplary work ethic in managing the mission support and crew training associated with extravehicular activity space hardware.

Dr. Scott L. Klempner of the United States Air Force - Exceptional leadership during the delivery and launch of Advanced Extremely High Frequency Flight 1 (AEHF-1) and contributions to the AEHF-1 orbital recovery plan following a major anomaly.

John H. Lawlor of Lockheed Martin - Technical excellence in the development of the Orion crew impact attenuation system to ensure crew safety and optimum performance.

Michael Marando of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne - Outstanding efforts to ensure safe flight of space shuttle main engines.

Lindsay A. Powell of The Boeing Company - Exceptional skill, professionalism and dedication on the Space Shuttle Program Ascent Loads Team.

Stephanie A. Sipila of NASA Johnson Space Center - Sustained leadership and superior efforts to support the future of the ISS through successful extravehicular activity.

Ryan P. Starn of L-3 Communications - Exceptional contributions to NASA Space Station Program regenerative life support system software reliability and robustness and development of innovative system software modeling augmenting independent verification and validation methods.

#### Ten 2011 Stellar Award Winners in the Mid Career Category

LeRoy E. Cain of NASA Johnson Space Center - Outstanding leadership as Chairman of the Space Shuttle Program Mission Management Team.

Randy J. Fitz of ATK - Personal dedication and accomplishments instrumental in the successful production of reusable solid rocket motor (RSRM) and RSRM vehicle energetic components and hardware.

James A. Galbraith of Oceaneering Space Systems - Unparalleled knowledge of human spacecraft materials and processes and related testing, analysis, investigation and approval for human rated spacecraft hardware.

Shawn M Greenwell of NASA Kennedy Space Center - Superior leadership and unmatched dedication to the Space Shuttle Program integrating a large multidiscipline launch team to ensure the safe and successful processing and launching of the space shuttle fleet.

Kenneth A. Head of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne - Exceptional support to the Space Shuttle Main Engine Program including technical knowledge of high pressure turbomachinery, turbine aerodynamics, secondary flow and thermal analysis.

Mark Jackson of Draper Laboratory - Excellence in the development and integration of guidance, navigation and control systems for the Orion crew vehicle.

Jennifer L. Kimball of United Space Alliance - Outstanding leadership of the U.S. and Russian Guidance, Navigation and Control Flight Control Teams supporting Space Station Flight Operations.

Timothy W. Reith of The Boeing Company - Outstanding leadership in addressing technical issues associated with space shuttle orbiter vehicle design and operations.

Dr. Edward J. Wassell of MEI Technologies Inc. - Superior contributions advancing micro electro-mechanical systems and detector fabrication processes resulting in positive impacts on quality, scientific data and leading edge innovation.

Martin J. Wilson of United Space Alliance - Leadership, technical expertise and innovation in the development of reusable thermal protection systems to support the Space Shuttle Program.

#### Seven 2011 Stellar Award Winners in the Late Career Category

Edward W. Bechtel of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne - Outstanding technical leadership and insight in developing combustion device technologies and rocket engine components.

Michael J. Dunham of The Boeing Company - Exemplary leadership of the Space Shuttle Orbiter Stress, Loads, and Dynamics Team, enabling the Space Shuttle Program to fly safely and with confidence since returning to flight.

Timothy Nalette of Hamilton Sundstrand - Sustained advances in life support air revitalization technologies for the Human Spaceflight Program.

Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski of the United States Air Force, Air Force Research Laboratory - Visionary leadership of defense space flight in service to the United States.

E. Cary Ralston of ATK - Extraordinary leadership and program management achievement in the execution of human space propulsion programs.

Gregory A. Ray of The Boeing Company - Exceptional technical expertise and leadership in positions of increasing responsibility in engineering and management for the Space Shuttle Team.

George Roberts of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne - Outstanding dedication, professionalism, and technical excellence in supporting human spaceflight for more than 45 years.

#### Seven 2011 Stellar Award Winners in the Team Awards Category

International Space Station (ISS) Active System Thermal Resources and Operations team of The Boeing Company - Outstanding team effort supporting recovery from the external active thermal control system loop A pump failure on ISS. Lupe Gonzales accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Minotaur IV Launch Vehicle Team of Orbital Sciences Corporation - Successful development and demonstration of a new low cost and flexible launch configuration of the Minotaur IV launch vehicle. Lou Amorosi accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Orion Launch Abort System Integrated Product Team of Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company - Outstanding teamwork, leadership and technical excellence in the development of the state-of-the-art Orion launch abort system culminating in the flawless Pad Abort 1 flight test. Roger McNamara accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Orion Launch Abort System Team of Orbital Sciences Corporation - Exceptional dedication and technical excellence resulting in the successful design, development and test of the first full-scale abort system in the United States in more than 45 years. Henri Fuhrmann accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Orion Pad Abort 1 Flight Test Team of NASA Johnson Space Center - Extraordinary performance in the conduct of the first full-scale integrated flight-test of the next generation crew escape launch abort system. Griff Corpenning accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Regenerative Environmental Control and Life Support (ECLS) Team of The Boeing Company - Leadership and technical excellence by the Regenerative ECLS Team resulting in the first on-orbit implementation of the fully regenerative ECLS system in the USOS (United States On-Orbit Segment) enabling six-person ISS crew capability necessary for full station utilization. Greg Gentry accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Spitzer Space Telescope Project Team of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - Outstanding innovation, dedication, and technical excellence by the Spitzer Space Telescope Project Team enabling both engineering and scientific firsts from which the next generation of astrophysics missions will benefit. Suzanne Dodd accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Visit <http://www.nasa.org/stellar.html> for photos of Stellar Award winners.