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**The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr., NASA Administrator, retired Major General United States Marine Corps and former NASA astronaut to Receive the National Space Trophy**

**BAY AREA HOUSTON, Texas (January 21, 2014**). The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation has selected NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr., retired United States Marine Corps Major General and former astronaut to receive the 2014 National Space Trophy on April 11, 2014, at the Houston Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.

Bolden was nominated by Col. Robert Cabana, Director of the Kennedy Space Center and former astronaut, STS-41, STS-53, STS-65 and STS-88, and by Mr. Robert Jacobs, NASA Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Communications.

Cabana nominated Bolden for his “many years of dedicated service and exceptional leadership through an extremely challenging transition in America's space program, establishing NASA's exploration architecture for the future, and enabling successful commercial operations to low Earth orbit,” and Jacobs nominated Bolden for his “dedication to public service, leadership, and contributions to aeronautics and aerospace throughout a distinguished military and civilian career.”

Rodolfo González, President of the RNASA Foundation said, “We are very pleased with the selection of the board of advisors and look forward to celebrating General Bolden’s exemplary service.”

NASA Administrator and former astronaut Charles F. Bolden, Jr. said, “I am humbled by this selection and will be extremely honored to attend the RNASA Gala in April to accept this award on behalf of the entire NASA-Contractor Team I am privileged to lead.”

 NASA Administrator Bolden was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 12th Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He began his duties as head of the agency on July 17, 2009.

As Administrator, Bolden leads a nationwide NASA team to advance the missions and goals of the U.S. space program.

During Bolden's tenure, the agency's science activities include an unprecedented landing on Mars with the Curiosity rover, launch of a spacecraft to Jupiter, enhancing the nation's fleet of Earth-observing satellites, and continued progress toward the 2018 launch of the James Webb Space Telescope, the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope.

A veteran of four space flights, he has logged over 680 hours in space. Bolden served as pilot on [STS-61-C](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-61-C" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-61-C) (January 12 - 18, 1986) and [STS-31](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-31" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-31) (April 24 - 29, 1990), and was the mission commander on [STS-45](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-45" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-45) (March 24, 1992 - April 2, 1992), and [STS-60](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-60" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-60) (February 3-11, 1994).

Bolden earned a Master of Science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1977. In 1978, he was assigned to the Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Md., and completed his training in 1979.

Bolden's 34-year career with the Marine Corps also included 14 years as a member of NASA's Astronaut Office. Bolden’s military decorations include the [Navy Astronaut Badge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronaut_Badge" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronaut_Badge), [Defense Distinguished Service Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Distinguished_Service_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Distinguished_Service_Medal), [Defense Superior Service Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Superior_Service_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Superior_Service_Medal), [Legion of Merit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_of_Merit" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_of_Merit) (1 [award star](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Award_star" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Award_star)), [Distinguished Flying Cross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_(United_States)" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_(United_States)), [Defense Meritorious Service Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Meritorious_Service_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Meritorious_Service_Medal) (1 [oak leaf cluster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_leaf_cluster" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_leaf_cluster)), [Air Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Medal) (1 award star and [Strike/Flight numeral 8](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strike/Flight_numerals" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strike/Flight_numerals)), [NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Outstanding_Leadership_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Outstanding_Leadership_Medal), [NASA Exceptional Service Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Exceptional_Service_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Exceptional_Service_Medal) (2 award stars), [NASA Space Flight Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Space_Flight_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Space_Flight_Medal) (3 award stars), [Navy Unit Commendation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navy_Unit_Commendation" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navy_Unit_Commendation), [National Defense Service Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Defense_Service_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Defense_Service_Medal) (1 [service star](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_star" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_star)), [Vietnam Service Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_Service_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_Service_Medal) (2 service stars), [Vietnam Gallantry Cross unit citation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_Gallantry_Cross" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_Gallantry_Cross), and the [Vietnam Campaign Medal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_Campaign_Medal" \t "_blank" \o "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_Campaign_Medal).

On August 28, 2012, Bolden was the first human to have his voice broadcast on the surface of Mars or any other planet. Although the Curiosity rover has no speakers, it received the transmission of his voice and then beamed it back to Earth.

Bolden is married to the former Alexis (Jackie) Walker of Columbia, South Carolina. Their family consists of son Che`, a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps, daughter-in-law Penelope “Penny” Jan McDougle from Sydney, Australia, three granddaughters, Mikaley, Kyra, and Yalia, and daughter Kelly Michelle, a plastic surgeon at the Howard University Hospital in Washington.

The RNASA Foundation invites members of the public and the aerospace community to attend the black-tie event on April 11, 2014, at the Houston Hyatt Regency where NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr., will be recognized with the National Space Trophy. Please use **[http://www.rnasa.org/houston.html](http://www.rnasa.org/houston.html" \t "_blank" \o "http://www.rnasa.org/houston.html)** to make a hotel reservation at the Houston Hyatt Regency. The telephone number is 713-654-1234.

Please use **[http://www.rnasa.org/tables.html](http://www.rnasa.org/tables.html" \t "_blank" \o "http://www.rnasa.org/tables.html)** to reserve your table for the RNASA Banquet, and for information about sponsorships and tickets. The RNASA website is **[http://www.rnasa.org/](http://www.rnasa.org/" \t "_blank" \o "http://www.rnasa.org/).**

*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.*

Caption for photo:

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation has selected NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr., retired United States Marine Corps Major General and former astronaut to receive the 2014 National Space Trophy on April 11, 2014, at the Houston Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.