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**For Immediate Release** May 6, 2014

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# **RNASA Foundation Honors NASA Administrator Charles Bolden**

**HOUSTON, Texas**(May 6, 2014). The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA)Foundation presented the 2014 National Space Trophy (NST), to the Honorable **Charles F. Bolden, Jr.**, NASA Administrator, retired Major General United States Marine Corps (Ret.) and former NASA astronaut, [STS-61-C](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-61-C), [STS-31](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-31), [STS-45](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-45), and [STS-60](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-60); the 2014 Space Communicator Award to former Canadian Space Agency astronaut (STS-74, STS-100, and International Space Station mission Soyuz TMA-07M), author, and musician **Chris A. Hadfield**, and Stellar Awards were presented to 25 individuals and ten teams at the RNASA Gala on **April 11**, 2014, at the Houston Hyatt Regency.

After a reception featuring pianist **Victoria Riva-Dorsch**, **RNASA Foundation Chairman Rodolfo González** welcomed the 800 guests to RNASA's 28th annual gala. He said, “RNASA’s mission is to encourage, recognize, honor and celebrate U.S. space achievements from across the entire country and across all sectors.”

The Clear Lake High School **Clear Lake ISD JROTC Color Guard** presented the colors. **The Love Antioch Brothers** from the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church sang the National Anthem, and **Elder Daniel Jones** of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gave the invocation.

The RNASA program kicked off with a year-in-review film by **Space City Films**. The master of ceremonies, Former CNN correspondent **John Zarrella** introduced the keynote speaker **Frank L. Culbertson,** Senior VP, Orbital Sciences. Zarrella said, “During his 18 years as a NASA astronaut, Frank flew three missions, and as part of the Expedition III crew, he spent 129 days on orbit on the International Space Station in 2001.”

Culbertson urged the members of the aerospace community in the audience, especially the younger people, “to enthusiastically support human space flight.” He also said, “You can certainly take inspiration and confidence from the courage and leadership ability of people like Charlie Bolden and Dave Thompson and the other giants of aerospace you are sitting with tonight. Without the same such courage, such foresight, and such commitment from all of you we will gradually lose leadership in the world, and worse, we will lose the future that our predecessors established while breaking the barriers, forcing through the hard programs, such as Apollo, Shuttle and Station, taking huge risks, and by building the organizations that make our industry successful.”

**Veronica McGregor**, the 2013 Space Communicator Award winner, and Manager of News and Social Media at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, presented the 2014 Space Communicator Award to former Canadian Space Agency astronaut (STS-74, STS-100, and International Space Station mission Soyuz TMA-07M), author, and musician **Chris A. Hadfield** via video recording. McGregor said that Hadfield used social media extensively during his space missions.

Hadfield, who could not attend the event in person, accepted the award via video recording. He said, “I accept it, of course, on behalf of me and my family, but much more so on behalf of all of the other people that worked so hard to communicate the experience of spaceflight, specifically during the five months that I was on board the International Space Station.”

The Stellar Award winners were announced by NASA Astronauts **Dr. Karen LuJean Nyberg**, STS-124, and **Col. (Ret.) Douglas G. Hurley**, STS-127 and [STS-135](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-135), who then presented them with engraved marble trophies donated by **ATK**.  The Stellar Awards were presented in four categories: Early Career, Mid-Career, Late Career, and Team.

**Col. Robert Cabana**, Director of the Kennedy Space Center and former astronaut, STS-41, STS-53, STS-65 and STS-88, presented the 2014 Rotary National Award for Space Achievement to NASA Administrator Bolden. Cabana said, “There is no one more passionate about what we do and the need for us to be successful and remain a world leader.”

NASA Administrator Bolden said that he was “honored and humbled” by the award. He said, “but when I remind myself that this award is actually an affirmation of the incredible work done by the NASA family, both civil servants and contractors, over many decades now, I’m honored to accept it on behalf of each and every one of the members of our superb team. I’m blessed to be surrounded by the best leadership team in any organization anywhere.”

Major General **Joe H. Engle** USAF (Ret.) and former astronaut ([X-15 Flight 138](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-15#Highest_flights), [X-15 Flight 143](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-15#Highest_flights), [X-15 Flight 153](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-15#Highest_flights), [ALT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Approach_and_Landing_Tests), [STS-2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-2), [STS-51-I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-51-I)) presented an **OMEGA** watch to Bolden. Engle spoke about the role OMEGA watches have played throughout the space program before presenting one to NASA Administrator Bolden. Engle spoke of his own OMEGA watch, saying in closing, “Charlie, that was fifty years ago.  And, I am not kidding you.  This very watch is what I was flying the X-15 in.  It is still working.  It’s worked good for fifty years.  So fifty years from now, Charlie, if you start having any problems with this watch, go hit up Kiwan (Anderson from OMEGA) right down there at Table 7, and he will take care of you.”

**Eagle Applied Sciences** donated the portrait of Bolden by **Pat Rawlings,** which was on display at the gala and used as the cover of the souvenir program. The painting will become part of the National Space Trophy display at Space Center Houston until after next year's event.

RNASA Chairman Rodolfo González concluded the evening by thanking the Foundation’s 39 corporate sponsors whose support and achievements made the event possible: a.i. solutions Inc., Aerojet Rocketdyne, The Aerospace Corporation, ARES Corporation, ATK, Barrios Technology, Bastion Technologies Inc., The Boeing Company, Booz Allen Hamilton, Cimarron, DB Consulting Group, Inc., Draper Laboratory, **Eagle Applied Sciences LLC**, ERC, Fisher Space Pens, GeoControl System, Inc., Honeywell, Intuitive Machines, Jacobs, Keystone Engineering Company, L-3 STRATIS, Lockheed Martin, MEI Technologies, Inc., MRI Technologies, National Space Biomedical Research Institute, Oceaneering International, Inc., OMEGA Watches, Orbital Sciences Corporation, Raytheon, SAIC, SGT. Inc., Sierra Nevada Corporation, Space Foundation, Space X, Tesseda & Associates, Inc., United Space Alliance, University of Houston-Clear Lake, UTC Aerospace Systems, and Wyle.

Visit <http://www.rnasa.org/photos.html#2014> for images from the event.

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:

NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr., retired United States Marine Corps Major General and former astronaut (left) received the 2014 National Space Trophy from Col. Robert Cabana, Director of the Kennedy Space Center and former astronaut, on April 11, 2014, at the RNASA Gala at the Houston Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.  (NASA photo, 2014)

Space Communicator Presenter, Veronica McGregor, the 2013 Space Communicator Award winner, and Manager of News and Social Media at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California taking a selfie with former astronaut Chris A. Hadfield, 2014 Space Communicator Award Recipient on the screen (left) on April 11, 2014, at the RNASA Gala at the Houston Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.  Hadfield, who could not attend the event in person, accepted the award via video recording.   (NASA photo, 2014).

Former Canadian Space Agency astronaut (STS-74, STS-100, and International Space Station mission Soyuz TMA-07M), author, and musician **Chris A. Hadfield**was honored with RNASA’s2014 Space Communicator Award at the RNASA Gala at the Houston Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas on April 11, 2014.   Hadfield, who could not attend the event in person, accepted the award via video recording.  (Canadian Space Agency photo).