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**RNASA Foundation Honors Colonel Robert D. Cabana**

**HOUSTON, Texas (April 24, 2015**).  The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA)Foundation presented the 2015 National Space Trophy (NST) to **Colonel Robert D. Cabana**, USMC (Ret.), Director of NASA’s Kennedy Space Center and former NASA astronaut, STS-41, STS-53, STS-65 and STS-88, and Stellar Awards were presented to **23** individuals and **10** teams at the RNASA Gala on **April 24, 2015** at the Houston Hyatt Regency.

**RNASA Foundation Chairman Rodolfo González** welcomed the guests to RNASA's 29th annual gala, saying that **“**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 High School JROTC Color Guard** presented the colors, followed by **Kam Franklin**, Lead Singer for [The Suffers](http://www.thesuffers.com/), who sang the National Anthem, and [**Rev. Stephen Oglesbee**](http://www.clpc.org/content.cfm?id=149&member_id=19), Lead Pastor, [Clear Lake Presbyterian](http://www.clpc.org/) Church, gave the invocation.

The RNASA program kicked off with a year-in-review film by **Space City Films**.  **John Zarrella**, former CCN correspondent covering space for more than thirty-two years, and current CCTV correspondent, served as the emcee of RNASA’s 29th annual awards gala.

The Stellar Award winners were announced by NASA Astronaut[**Colonel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonel_%28United_States%29) **Randy “Komrade” Bresnik,** USMC, [STS-129](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-129) and NASA Astronaut **Tracy Caldwell-Dyson,** Mission Specialist [STS-118](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-118) and [Expedition 23/24](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expedition_24) who then presented them with engraved marble trophies donated by **Orbital ATK**.  The Stellar Awards were presented in Early Career, Mid-Career, Late Career, and Team categories.

**Dr. Ellen Ochoa**, Director of the Johnson Space Center and former NASA astronaut [STS-56](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-56), [STS-66](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-66), [STS-96](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-96), and STS-110, presented the prestigious 2015 Rotary National Award for Space Achievement to Colonel Cabana, stating that Col. Cabana “…and his team developed the vision of Kennedy as the world’s premier multi-user spaceport, and he has worked tirelessly to make that a reality. It has been more than a transition; it is a transformation. Bob and Kennedy Space Center are now enabling the world to explore and work in space.

Colonel Cabana thanked all the stellar award nominees for their hard work and dedication and congratulated all the winners. Cabana said, “I am incredibly honored that the committee thought me worthy to receive the National Space Trophy this year” and he recognized many of the previous national space trophy winners that had a direct impact on his life and shaped his thinking. Cabana stated “at KSC we truly have transitioned to be a multi-user space port of the future, supporting both government and commercial operations, crew and cargo, to and from low Earth orbit and beyond”, and closed by saying “I can’t think of any place I would rather be than part of this amazing team. Thank you again, and don’t stop dreaming!”

There was a filmed message congratulating Cabana from NASA Administrator, **Charles F. Bolden, Jr.**,  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) and the winner of the 2014 National Space Trophy.

There was also a filmed message congratulating Cabana from Astronaut **Scott Kelly**, [STS-103](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-103) [Discovery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Discovery), [STS-118](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-118) [Endeavour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Endeavour), Soyuz TMA-01M (ISS Expedition 25/26), and [Soyuz TMA-16M](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soyuz_TMA-16M), (ISS Expedition 43), who spoke from the Unity node onboard International Space Station, which was delivered on by Cabana’s crew on STS-88, the first ISS assembly mission.

Lt. Gen **Thomas P. Stafford,** USAF (Ret.), Gemini and Apollo astronaut, and the 1993 National Space Trophy winner, presented an **OMEGA** watch to Cabana.

**Lockheed Martin** donated the portrait of Cabana by **Pat Rawlings,** which 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: a.i.solutions, Inc., Aerojet Rocketdyne, The Aerospace Corporation, ARES Corporation, Barrios Technology, Bastion Technologies, Inc., The Boeing Company, Booz Allen Hamilton, Cimarron, DB Consulting Group, Inc., Draper Laboratory, Dynetics, ERC, Inc., Fisher Space Pens, Fort Sill Apache Industries, GeoControl System, Inc., Honeywell, Jacobs, Lockheed Martin, MEI Technologies, Inc., MRI Technologies, NMR Consulting, Oceaneering International, Inc., OMEGA Watches, Orbital ATK, Raytheon, SAIC, SGT, Inc., Space Foundation, SpaceX, United Continental Holdings Co., University of Houston-Clear Lake, UTC Aerospace Systems, VMD Systems Integrators, and Wyle.

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

*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 photos:

Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Director of the Johnson Space Center presents the National Space Trophy to Colonel Robert Cabana

General Thomas P. Stafford presents the OMEGA watch to Colonel Robert Cabana

John Zarrella as Emcee at the 29th annual RNASA Space Awards Gala