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**Colonel Robert D. Cabana - Director-of the Kennedy Space Center to Receive the 2015 National Space Trophy**

**BAY AREA HOUSTON, Texas (January 15, 2015**).  The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation has selected Colonel Robert D. Cabana -Director of the Kennedy Space Center, former NASA astronaut STS-41, STS-53, STS-65 and STS-88, and retired United States Marine Corp Colonel, to receive the 2015 National Space Trophy on April 24, 2015, at the Houston Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.

Rodolfo González, President of the RNASA Foundation said, "The Foundation is overwhelmed with the number of nominators that came forward with a submittal for Col. Cabana. We are pleased the board of advisors' selected him, and look forward to honoring him at the 2015 RNASA Space Awards Gala."

Cabana was nominated by Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Center Director, NASA Johnson Space Center, Mr. Michael L. Coats, Former Center Director, NASA Johnson Space Center, and Dr. Michael D. Griffin, former NASA Administrator, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Schafer Corporation “for his exceptional leadership and executive guidance in leading the evolution of the NASA Kennedy Space Center as the world's premier multiuser spaceport in support of NASA's exploration goals.” Rick Hieb, Vice-President of Lockheed Martin Civil Programs also nominated Cabana, “for outstanding leadership, commitment, vision and public service benefiting America’s security and our Nation’s human space exploration program.” John Zarrella said, “I have known Bob for decades while I was covering the U.S. Space Program for CNN. During those years it became very evident, very quickly that no one cared more about the successes of the program. No one hurt more over the failures. And no one had greater hope about the future.” And Elliot Holokauahi Pulham, Chief Executive Officer of Space Foundation said “I can think of no one more deserving of the 2015 National Space Trophy than Bob Cabana.”

Colonel Robert D. Cabana, Director of the Kennedy Space Center and former astronaut said, “I am extremely honored to be receiving the National Space Trophy. The previous awardees are my heroes, and it means so much to me that the board considered me worthy to be among them."

Colonel Cabana is currently serving as the tenth director of NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC), the primary United States (U.S.) launch site that has been used for every NASA human space flight since 1968. In this role, Colonel Cabana manages all NASA facilities and activities at Kennedy Space Center, leading a team of dedicated civil service and contractor personnel who operate and support numerous space programs and projects. He has been instrumental in ensuring the successful transition from the Space Shuttle and establishing KSC as a true multiuser spaceport of the future.

Colonel Cabana was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2008. He is the recipient of The Daughters of the American Revolution Award for the top Marine to complete naval flight training in 1976, is a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Naval Test Pilot School, and has logged over 7,000 hours in 50 different kinds of aircraft.

Cabana is a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, an Associate Fellow in the AIAA, and he has received numerous awards and decorations, including the De La Vaulx medal by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale in 1994, the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award, and most recently he was honored with the National Space Club 2013 Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement, two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, two NASA Medals for Outstanding Leadership, two NASA Exceptional Service Medals, and four NASA Space Flight Medals.

A veteran of four space flights, Cabana has logged over 910 hours in space. He served as pilot on STS-41 (October 6-10, 1990) and STS-53 (December 2-9, 1992), and was mission commander on STS-65 (July 8-23, 1994) and STS-88 (December 4-15, 1998), the first ISS assembly mission.

The RNASA Foundation invites members of the public and the aerospace community to attend the black-tie event on April 24, 2015 at the Houston Hyatt Regency where Colonel Robert D. Cabana will be recognized with the National Space Trophy.  This year will be RNASA’s 29th annual National Space Trophy Banquet. Please use [**http://www.rnasa.org/tables.html**](http://www.rnasa.org/tables.html) to reserve your table for the RNASA Banquet, and for information about sponsorships and tickets.  To reserve a hotel room, please use [**http://www.rnasa.org/houston.html**](http://www.rnasa.org/houston.html) at the Houston Hyatt Regency. The telephone number is 713-654-1234, ask for Reservations, and request the RNASA group rate. The RNASA website is [**http://www.rnasa.org/**](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 Colonel Robert D. Cabana -Director of the Kennedy Space Center, former NASA astronaut STS-41, STS-53, STS-65 and STS-88, and retired United States Marine Corp Colonel (USMC), to receive the 2015 National Space Trophy on April 24, 2015, at the Houston Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.