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Contact: Lindsey Cousins

Lindseyrc99@gmail.com

Rotary Gala Honors Heroes of Space

Houston, Texas (April 15, 2025). The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (**RNASA**) Foundation Space Awards Gala will take on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the Houston Hyatt Regency.

The RNASA Foundation was formed by the Space Center Rotary Club in 1985, to publicly recognize the unsung heroes of America’s space program alongside the more well-known achievers. This year, the RNASAFoundation will present the 2025 National Space Trophy to **Pamela Melroy**, retired NASA Deputy Administrator. Former Johnson Space Center Director, **Mike Coats**, and acting Johnson Space Center Director, **Stephen Koerner**, will present the prestigious award to Melroy.

Griffin Communications Group President **Jeff Carr** will present the Space Communicator Award to Space City Films Owner, **Marc Havican**.

**Kristin Fisher,** Emmy Award-winning independent journalist and CNN contributor, will serve as Emcee, and NASA Astronaut **Scott Altman**, will present an **OMEGA** watch to Melroy at the closing of the program.

The National Space Trophy honoree is selected each year by the RNASA Foundation's Board of Advisors. This board represents a Who's Who of government and corporate aerospace leaders, including former Trophy and Space Communicator Award recipients.

In addition to the National Space Trophy, stellar awards will be presented to individuals in early career, mid career, late career, and team categories. RNASA Chairman Rodolfo González said, “We received an impressive 136 stellar nominations this year, 42 government and 92 corporate, and 1 government/corporate joint team.” The nominations came from Aegis Aerospace, Aerodyne Industries, The Aerospace Corporation, Amentum, ASRC Federal, ASTRION, Axiom Space, Barrios Technology, Blue Origin, Booz Allen Hamilton, CACI International, Inc., Draper, GeoControl Systems, Inc., Honeywell Aerospace Technologies, Intuitive Machines, KBR, Leidos, Lockheed Martin, MRI Technologies, NASA GSFC Wallops Flight Facility, NASA Johnson Space Center, NASA Kennedy Space Center, Nexus, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Oceaneering Space Systems, SAIC, SpaceX, TTTech North America, and United States Space Force.

Of all the nominations, only a few Stellar awards are given, and are announced the evening of the banquet. The winners will receive engraved marble trophies that will be presented by NASA Astronauts **Randy Bresnik** and **Kate Rubins.**

The RNASA Stellar Awards Evaluation Panel ranks the nominations received from industry and government in all categories, based on whose accomplishments hold the greatest promise for furthering activities in space and the extent to which the nominee meets the goal of recognizing "unsung heroes”. The 2025 Stellar judges are **Michael Coats,  Eileen Collins, Sandra Magnus, Michael Hawes, and Christopher Scolese.**

The Stellar Award nominees and team representatives will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the Johnson Space Center and a luncheon where all are recognized with certificates mounted with an American flag flown in space and a **Fisher Space Pen** donated by the company. The **Fisher Space Pen** was originally carried by the astronauts of the Apollo moon missions and is still used on manned space flights to this day. They are precision assembled, hand tested, and guaranteed to perform underwater, at any angle including upside down, in extreme temperatures, and of course in zero gravity.

The reception begins at 6 p.m., and the program starts at 7 p.m with a welcome by RNASA Chairman **Rodolfo Gonzalez.** Following will be a presentation of the colors by **Clear Brook High School Army JROTC**, accompanied with the national anthem sung by **Danny Myers. Dr. Steven Laufer of the River Oaks Baptist Church** will provide the invocation. After dinner, the awards ceremony will kick off with a multimedia show summarizing the year's space events produced by **Space City Films**.