

**Remarks by The Honorable Shana Dale
NASA Deputy Administrator
Glenn Research Center Honor Awards Ceremony
August 7, 2008**

Thank you, Woodrow, for your kind introduction. As I was coming in to the Agency, Woodrow was transitioning over as Center Director of Glenn. I have had the great pleasure to work with Woodrow—a great manager and senior leader of NASA. I have come to know him as a man of intellect, wisdom, integrity and humor. When I leave this Agency, you are one that I will dearly miss.

And I need to thank Robyn Gordon, who works for Woodrow but has been detailed for awhile as my Executive Officer. She is aggressive, determined and very capable. She deals with the challenges and headaches of Headquarters and Washington, DC and plows right through them. No doubt, there will be a big celebration when she and her dog, Magic, come back to Cleveland at the end of October. Robyn, thank you for all the hard work.

I'm delighted to be here at the Glenn Honor Awards ceremony to celebrate the significant contributions that you - the honorees - have made to the advancement of aeronautics and to America's Space Program. I want to thank each of you being honored today for going above what was required time and again.

In the words of the author Victor Hugo, "There is nothing like a dream to create the future." For me, there is nothing like the dedication of NASA employees to make dreams come true. From our past to our present, we owe you, the pioneers of aeronautics research and space exploration, a debt of gratitude.

Ohio is the birthplace of aviation. Buckeyes have achieved monumental firsts in aeronautics research and space exploration. One of the great pioneers of space exploration is the name sake for this Center. John H. Glenn, Jr., the first American to orbit the Earth, is an Ohio native who helped turn the dreams of spaceflight into reality. He has inspired many to join in the journey of spaceflight. It is very fitting that this Center was named to honor such a great American hero who has contributed so much to our Agency and our Nation.

Glenn Research Center has built on John Glenn's legacy as a Marine aviator and space explorer with its outstanding contributions to the development of aeropropulsion, space propulsion, spaceflight systems, power systems, nuclear systems, communications, and human research. But, putting aside the programs for a moment, it is you, the people who work at Glenn, who make this organization truly outstanding.

Your work at the Glenn Research Center has helped NASA mark its 50th anniversary this year with many successes that come from your dedication to NASA's mission. Because of your efforts, NASA's aeronautics research and space program is preeminent in the world today, and America's leadership in aerospace is the envy of all.

Some of you today are receiving service awards for your great dedication in serving at NASA for almost as long as it has been in existence. Many of you are being recognized for your exemplary leadership of people and programs. Whether you chose NASA as your life's career because of your appreciation for public service to our Nation, your passion for exploring the next frontier, or your commitment to our future in the global community, we thank you for that decision and today recognize your outstanding achievements.

In addition to leadership and mission support efforts, many of you are receiving awards for your efforts in engineering and in research. Among other past critical successes, your research helped the Space Shuttle return to flight after the Columbia accident in 2003. Your research and engineering today are preparing the way for aeronautics advancements and space exploration tomorrow.

Many of your past achievements and current efforts are helping NASA transition into a new era of exploration. Every transition for NASA opens a new chapter to explore the unknown. As we explore, we discover more about ourselves, the Universe, and the challenges we face.

Glenn Research Center continues to build upon its world-class Aeronautics heritage by concentrating its research on the principles of flight in any atmosphere at any speed and on the enhancement of aviation safety. The leadership of Glenn has helped to improve performance, efficiency, and safety of our subsonic, supersonic and hypersonic vehicles. Your work has revolutionized technologies and aircraft concepts for subsonic fixed-wing aircraft that have greatly improved performance while satisfying strict environmental constraints. Your leadership in propulsion, combustion, and acoustic research for supersonic flight will revolutionize air travel for all of us by reducing the amount of time in the air.

In addition, Glenn researchers play a key role in conducting long-term, cutting-edge aviation safety research, such as icing and high temperature electronics research, which will produce tools, methods, concepts, and technologies to improve the intrinsic safety attributes of current and future aircraft and engines. For space exploration, we are turning science fiction into reality – thanks to you. Work on the next generation ion engine propulsion technology known as NEXT, or NASA's Evolutionary Xenon Thruster, will allow future spacecraft to travel faster, travel further, visit more destinations, and do it for less cost. As this project has been described, the propulsion of choice for science fiction writers has become the propulsion of choice for scientists and engineers

at NASA for future planetary missions, especially to the outer planets of Jupiter and beyond. Your outstanding work on this project is being recognized here today.

With new technology, new spacecraft, and a new vision, we are going to the Moon for long-duration missions and we are preparing for journeys to take us farther than we humans have ever ventured. The International Space Station is advancing our transition. It serves as an ideal test bed for technology advancement and for operational experience that is essential for our return to the Moon and our future long-duration missions beyond low-Earth orbit.

Through your work at Glenn, we efficiently power the International Space Station. This pioneered and continues to improve technology used to efficiently convert sunlight into electrical power for the Station. Without electrical power, we cannot safely operate the Station or power the research facilities. Research facilities, such as the Fluids and Combustion Facility, will allow us to conduct microgravity research on the Space Station that we can't do on Earth. This research helps with fire prevention, detection and suppression, environmental controls, and the health of our astronauts. We are here to recognize your development of this exceptional facility.

On our path to future human exploration, NASA is working hard on the Orion and Ares vehicles. We are here to honor your work on these efforts. NASA is an agency that creates the future. Your work on the Constellation program demonstrates this principle. With your contributions, NASA will have conducted the test flight of the Ares I-X by next year.

It is exciting to be part of this Agency during a transition to a new vision. Your work is critical to our success. You are being recognized for your outreach to and education of the public and policy-makers on NASA's missions. Your leadership through teamwork, collaboration, talent, and inspiration has led NASA to accomplish extraordinary feats.

I have immense pride to work for this Agency. Like many of you, working at NASA to advance our Nation's aeronautics' leadership and space exploration has been an incredible experience. Being a part of America's aerospace program has allowed me to work with the best-of-the-best. NASA employs some of the smartest people in the world – you are sitting here in this room today. That's heady stuff for a girl who grew up in Arkansas and I am honored to work with you.

Fifty years ago, America embraced an extraordinary dream to explore space and formed this great Agency. Its foundation was aeronautics, with that first successful airplane flight more than 100 years ago. And you, here today, continue to make that dream possible. You, your families, and friends should be proud to know that your contributions push the frontiers of aeronautics, increase the scientific knowledge of the world, enhance the economic competitiveness of the United States and inspire kids to go into science, engineering and math. No doubt, when you work on your individual

projects, you know how cool they are. You probably rarely take a step back and think about how your work impacts the United States of America and the world. Take a moment to think about it. Your work continues to prove that dedication and ingenuity can turn visions and dreams into reality.

My deepest congratulations go to all of the award recipients. Your contributions matter to all of humanity. But, we would not have those contributions without the support of your family and friends.

I also want to extend a special “thank you” to the families and loved ones who support us, sometimes at great sacrifice. You help make these amazing accomplishments a reality and you share equally in the triumphs of NASA.

As we reflect on the past and prepare for the future, remember, NASA has the ability to turn dreams into reality, challenges into opportunity, and tragedies into triumph. We do this through you.

Thank you.