

NASA OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
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Glenn Research Center Honor Awards

Remarks by  
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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 **DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR GARVER:** Thanks, Ray. Very  
3 interesting that any Center Director would think that I  
4 would have anything to do with their performance appraisal.  
5 You all know, I'm sure, how that would go, and we in  
6 Washington work for you, the Center Directors, so we  
7 appreciate everything you do here.

8 I just flew in this morning and have five minutes  
9 over in Ray's office and teed up the video to show me, so  
10 about 30 seconds into it, I'm rather directive. You get  
11 used to it in this position. "Bring me three blank sheets  
12 of paper and a thick marker," so they did that. So I start  
13 with my three words: NASA Glenn Rocks.

14 [Applause.]

15 You read my bio, but you left out the parts that  
16 really tie me to Glenn. This is, in so many ways, my home  
17 center. I am from Michigan, as you can maybe already tell  
18 from this lovely Midwestern twang that I have, I have not  
19 lost over my 30 years since being here, and as you  
20 mentioned, my first job out of college was working for none  
21 other than John H. Glenn.

22 The other thing that was very, very important

1 about that time was I met my husband working for John  
2 Glenn. We will celebrate our 25th anniversary next week.  
3 We have two wonderful sons, all because of John Glenn and  
4 the fabulous State of Ohio.

5 [Applause.]

6 I got married in Ohio 25 years ago, just up the  
7 road at Manakiki Country Club in Willoughby, Ohio. My  
8 mother-in-law lives in Cleveland still, my sister-in-law,  
9 lots of wonderful family, so I do consider you my home  
10 center. And those of you who are concerned because I'm  
11 from Michigan, please note that I am from Central Michigan,  
12 a Spartan, not a Wolverine, so my husband and I bond over  
13 cheering against University of Michigan, since he went to  
14 Ohio State and graduated from Kent State.

15 So it is certainly, certainly my pleasure to be  
16 here. Thank you for inviting me. It is, in fact, the NASA  
17 workforce that is responsible for all of the agency's  
18 successes, and you're the foundation of the direction on  
19 which we are now embarked here at Glenn.

20 You are with us in every aspect of our work, from  
21 human spaceflight and aeronautics to science and  
22 technology, and I'm pleased to recognize so many of you

1 today. Your hard-working personnel is what we use for  
2 everything I do in Washington. It's to tell people what it  
3 is that you are doing right here at the NASA Glenn Center.

4           So Glenn is going to continue to be at the  
5 forefront of NASA's future managing things, for instance,  
6 like our recent call for proposals in solar electric  
7 propulsion, pioneering other new vital propulsion systems  
8 and technology development efforts, continuing to push the  
9 envelope of aeronautics technology as we bring online the  
10 next generation of air transportation systems, continuing  
11 to learn from experiments and instruments that you  
12 developed and sent to the International Space Station, the  
13 centerpiece of our human spaceflight activities until at  
14 least 2020, continuing to reach out to students and the  
15 public with the many wonderful projects that Glenn has  
16 worked on throughout NASA's history. So our collective  
17 future is bright, and Glenn's diverse expertise will play a  
18 key role in this path forward.

19           So today we honor the men and women who have made  
20 a very real difference in this past year, and as always,  
21 NASA has done great things. We've achieved historic  
22 milestones and made new discoveries about our own planet

1 and the universe around us. Each of you have contributed  
2 to those many successes, and the men and women we honor  
3 today have made special lasting conversations to Glenn and  
4 to NASA's missions.

5           So, as an agency this past year, we have  
6 continued to safely fly out the Space Shuttle manifest, and  
7 each mission has been powered by the research and your work  
8 here in the early days on the Shuttle main engines and  
9 testing of many Shuttle components. Of course, 20 Ohioans  
10 have flown on the Shuttle, including the legendary John  
11 Glenn himself. With the retirement of the Space Shuttle  
12 fleet, we celebrate all of your contributions.

13           The Shuttle's legacy will endure for generations,  
14 not only for the amazing technological accomplishments  
15 itself, all of the satellites and spacecraft it has  
16 launched, but for the last over 40 missions, the launching  
17 of the International Space Station.

18           So this year alone, crews aboard ISS have  
19 continued on the orbiting outpost to conduct research  
20 activities, some developed right here, and increased the  
21 unique potential for breakthroughs that will help us send  
22 humans even farther into the solar system.

1           This past year, we celebrated 10 full years of  
2 continuous human occupation of the Space Station truly  
3 making us not only a space-faring nation but a space-faring  
4 civilization.

5           This year, NASA used some of its expertise that  
6 we've developed right here on Earth as well. We helped the  
7 Chilean miners survive their predicament, helped provide  
8 information about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to  
9 help contain it. We launched a satellite just recently to  
10 study the oceans and how that affects our climate and  
11 weather systems.

12           We learned more about the planets outside our  
13 solar system and just in the next two days are closing in,  
14 thanks to the ion engine that you helped develop here, on  
15 the asteroid Vesta.

16           We've facilitated the visualization of future  
17 aircraft with the help of Glenn employees and sent an  
18 instrument to the Space Station, the AMS, that will help us  
19 understand the very structure of the universe.

20           We put a spacecraft in orbit around Mercury for  
21 the first time, and yes, we've said goodbye to the beloved  
22 Spirit rover on Mars, but you know what they say, "We'll be

1 back," just later this year launching again with the Mars  
2 Science Lab.

3           We launched a website to tell stories of women  
4 and girls and young women employed at Glenn and at NASA, so  
5 that young women and girls now in school can consider  
6 following their own path into science, technology,  
7 engineering, and math. Three of your colleagues at Glenn  
8 are featured in this NASA White House website.

9           We've also connected students around the country  
10 with Station astronauts through educational downlinks,  
11 invited people across the entire globe to participate in  
12 NASA exploration through many of your conferences,  
13 exhibits, Tweetups. We did survive a few failures, and  
14 we've celebrated all these successes as a family.

15           The people we honor today conceived and planned  
16 and managed a full range of activities that have made all  
17 these things I just mentioned possible.

18           When your vision, as is NASA's, is to reach for  
19 new heights and reveal the unknown, so that what we do and  
20 learn will benefit all humanity, that is what we're  
21 honoring today. Each of you have brought vast and unique  
22 skill set to this vision, and you're working every day to

1 explore the universe while making life better here on  
2 Earth.

3           In my view, NASA is absolutely essential to our  
4 nation's very well-being. Its technology, scientific  
5 developments benefit each and every one of us every day of  
6 our lives. Its jobs are vital to our economy, and perhaps  
7 most importantly, we inspire our nation and the world to  
8 consider their highest potential of which we are all  
9 capable. The next generation is looking to all of you to  
10 jump-start that future.

11           And I can't come from Washington and not make  
12 sure that you recognize the message that I bring is that  
13 your nation's leadership believes in you, counts on you,  
14 and appreciates you. I know that sometimes the headlines  
15 are not what we would want. If any of you watched the  
16 hearing the other day with our Administrator, Charlie  
17 Bolden, it seems at times that people are debating whether  
18 or not we should continue this investment.

19           I would encourage you to really think about what  
20 the discussion is, because 20 years ago, the discussion was  
21 whether or not we were going to have a future for NASA, for  
22 human spaceflight, for the investment in this amazing



1 endeavor that you carry out on behalf of this nation. That  
2 is not the debate that's going on. I believe we have  
3 turned the corner, and the debate is not about whether or  
4 not we explore, whether or not there is a NASA, but how to  
5 best do it, how to best continue to be that space-faring  
6 nation, how to best invest in technology that will return  
7 for economic growth.

8           The President has set out a path that you are  
9 vital to. We recognize as we work with Congress that we  
10 are going to get to the valued work that all of you, will  
11 contribute to a bright, bright future. You need to be just  
12 assured that every time when I go to the Hill, I go to the  
13 White House, there is nothing, nothing but pride for your  
14 work.

15           So I want to thank each of you today, your  
16 honorees for your commitment to excellence and for helping  
17 NASA carry on this proud legacy. I've been told there are  
18 70 people being recognized for individual accomplishment  
19 and 547 people total honored for their excellent work.  
20 Seven of you have more than 40 years experience, service to  
21 the government. So, as Ray mentioned, I'm just coming up  
22 on my 2-year anniversary this tour, so 40 years certainly

1 does seem impressive.

2           Few agencies have the high profile that we  
3 command at NASA, and you work under the microscope every  
4 day. We ask you to do more, and we are so, so proud of  
5 you. As you come to work each and every day, please know  
6 that no matter where I go in this country, the dedication  
7 of the NASA workforce is appreciated. Without your  
8 continued service, we would not be able to achieve the  
9 amazing accomplishments of the past or be able to lay out  
10 those for the future.

11           We're embarking on a future that includes new  
12 capabilities and new missions with evermore challenging  
13 destinations. The NASA workforce, I know will rise to the  
14 challenge, rise to the occasion, and each year, we will  
15 have even more diverse successes to celebrate.

16           So all of you who are singled out today to be  
17 honored, I want to thank those of you who are just here to  
18 see your colleagues be honored. I know that what you are  
19 going to remember is those things that you have done that  
20 have left the world better than you found it.

21           I was raised in Michigan. My family was from a  
22 farming community in Michigan, although many of them were

1 in public service. My grandfather, my uncle were State  
2 legislature, State senators, part time as a way to give  
3 back. You are civil servants, those of you who directly  
4 work for NASA, taking an oath to serve the Constitution. I  
5 know you've given up a lot. You've given up time with  
6 friends and family, given up other professional career  
7 opportunities. But I want you to know that it is not only  
8 appreciated, but that you can feel better about having left  
9 behind a world that is better than you found it. There is  
10 really no greater calling.

11 I recently was the commencement speaker at George  
12 Washington University's graduation ceremony, and the theme  
13 for those students is, of course, trying to get them to  
14 come to work at NASA and have a STEM career and be able to  
15 include them in the NASA family, industry, academia, or  
16 government but also to choose something that you do that  
17 you can feel very proud of.

18 So I truly believe that the Glenn Research Center  
19 is central to our future. We honor you for not only your  
20 past year but your past decades of service.

21 I don't know if there's any press here. My only  
22 request is that you not note my presence, because I didn't

1 have time this visit to see my mother-in-law. Other than  
2 that, there is absolutely every indication that Northern  
3 Ohio and the Glenn Research Center has a great future  
4 because of what you have done for us.

5 Thank you so much for what you have done, and  
6 congratulations.

7 [Applause.]

8 Oh, I'm going to leave you with just a different  
9 combination of my three words: Glenn rocks NASA.

10 [Applause.]

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