



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Hosts US Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction Gala**

**KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla.** – More than thirty years ago, the six surviving Mercury 7 astronauts – Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton – came together with the goal to use their joint credibility to encourage students to pursue scientific endeavors. That idea led to the formation of the Mercury 7 Foundation, which later became the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF). Today, more than 100 astronauts from the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab and Space Shuttle programs have joined in the mission to award merit-based scholarships to the best and brightest undergraduate students who excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The prestigious Astronaut Scholarship is known nationwide for being among the highest scholarships awarded to undergraduate STEM students. Since its inception, ASF has awarded more than \$4 million in scholarships to more than 370 of the nation’s top scholars.

### **US Astronaut Hall of Fame - A Collaborative Effort**

The Mercury 7 also envisioned a place where the accomplishments of astronauts could be showcased and celebrated with the public. This vision led to the creation of the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame (AHOF) in 1990, with members of the Mercury 7 becoming the first inaugural class. As an extension of the KSCVC experience, visitors get a glimpse into the personal side of human spaceflight through the displays of the world’s largest collection of personal astronaut memorabilia. Every year, AHOF honors a class of astronauts that have excelled in their accomplishments in space or in their contributions to the advancement of space exploration.

ASF supervises the selection of inductees, obtains personal artifacts for display, and participates in the induction ceremony. As part of the induction celebration, ASF hosts a black-tie gala where guests dine in the company of more than 30 of America’s greatest space legends from every phase of the space program. The event is made possible in part by the generous support of sponsors including Kennedy Space Center, Delaware North, AirScan, Embraer and others.

The 2015 U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction Gala will take place on May 29, 2015. Individual tickets are \$600. Corporate sponsorships are still available. For more information or ticket sales, call 321-449-4876 or visit [www.AstronautScholarship.org](http://www.AstronautScholarship.org).

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