

NATIONAL ASTRONAUT DAY



20  
24

# ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

HONORING THOSE WHO ROCK THE STARS

# AWARDS

The Astronaut Rock Star Awards, 2024 as the first annual, will be a founding cornerstone of National Astronaut Day every year. There are three categories;

## **Astronaut Rock Star Diamond Award:**

Reserved for legacy Astronauts, given by Astronauts, whose historical contributions have paved the way for future exploration. This prestigious accolade recognizes not only their enduring impact on space exploration and STEAM education, but will also include tributes from Astronauts who were directly inspired by the legacy of these remarkable individuals.

## **Astronaut Rock Star Platinum Award:**

Presented to Astronauts, given by Rock Stars, who have made significant contributions to fostering public interest in space exploration in the present day. These individuals inspire and engage the public through their dedication and passion for space exploration, and their trailblazing and history making initiatives.

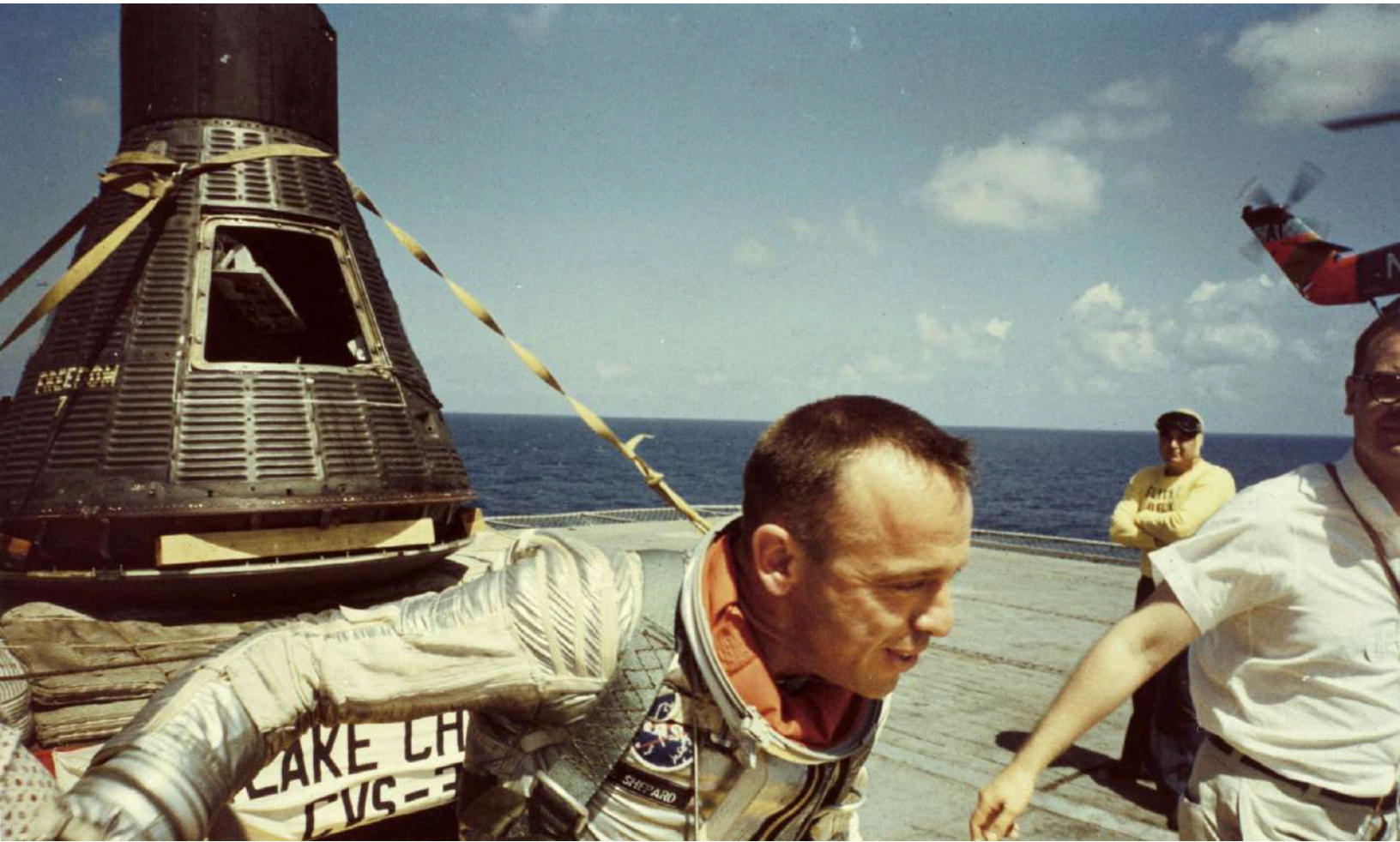
## **Astronaut Rock Star Gold Award:**

Given to students, charity organizations, individuals or groups actively working to advance STEM/STEAM education, specially as related to Space. This award recognizes their efforts in shaping the future of space exploration by nurturing the next gen of scientists, engineers, innovators and explorers. In addition to a plaque, Gold Award recipients will also earn an event with an Astronaut to support their efforts to inspire future gen interest in STEM/STEAM.

ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 DIAMOND AWARD

HONORING ALAN B. SHEPARD JR



*American Astronaut Alan Bartlett Shepard, Jr. makes his way to safety aboard the rescue ship, shortly after his splashdown in the Atlantic Ocean on May 5, 1961. Shepard completed a 15-minute suborbital flight to an altitude of 115 miles in the Freedom 7 capsule to become the first US Astronaut.*

*May 5th was selected for National Astronaut Day because of this significant date in history. Alan Shepard's trailblazing example of heroic bravery and adventurous spirit is this essence of what National Astronaut Day is all about.*

*(Photo: NASA)*

ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 DIAMOND AWARD

HONORING ALAN B. SHEPARD JR

ASTRONAUT ALAN B. SHEPARD, JR. EPITOMIZES THE PIONEERING SPIRIT OF SPACE EXPLORATION. ON MAY 5TH, 1961, SHEPARD ETCHED HIS NAME IN HISTORY AS THE FIRST AMERICAN TO JOURNEY INTO SPACE, COURAGEOUSLY VENTURING ON A SUB-ORBITAL FLIGHT ABOARD THE FREEDOM 7 MERCURY CAPSULE. HIS 15-MINUTE ODYSSEY, PROPELLED BY A REDSTONE ROCKET, SHOWCASED NOT ONLY HIS REMARKABLE PILOTING SKILLS BUT ALSO MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN HUMANITY'S QUEST BEYOND EARTH'S BOUNDS.

BEYOND HIS GROUNDBREAKING FLIGHT, SHEPARD'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPACE EXPLORATION CONTINUED TO SHAPE THE TRAJECTORY OF NASA'S ENDEAVORS. DESIGNATED CHIEF OF THE ASTRONAUT OFFICE IN 1963, HE PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN OVERSEEING THE TRAINING AND READINESS OF ASTRONAUTS, ENSURING THEIR PREPAREDNESS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF SPACEFLIGHT. DESPITE FACING PERSONAL SETBACKS, INCLUDING CORRECTIVE SURGERY FOR AN INNER EAR DISORDER, SHEPARD'S DEDICATION TO THE MISSION REMAINED UNWAVERING, CULMINATING IN HIS SECOND SPACEFLIGHT AS THE COMMANDER OF APOLLO 14.

SHEPARD'S INDELIBLE MARK ON SPACE EXPLORATION EXTENDS BEYOND HIS TIME IN ORBIT. HIS LEADERSHIP, BOTH IN THE SKIES AND ON THE GROUND, EXEMPLIFIES THE ETHOS OF EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY. FOLLOWING HIS RETIREMENT FROM NASA AND THE NAVY, SHEPARD CONTINUED TO CHAMPION SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE MERCURY SEVEN FOUNDATION, UNDERSCORING HIS COMMITMENT TO INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ASTRONAUTS AND SCIENTISTS.

AS THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF THE DIAMOND ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARD, SHEPARD'S LEGACY RESONATES NOT ONLY FOR HIS HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS BUT ALSO FOR HIS ENDURING IMPACT ON SPACE EXPLORATION AND STEAM EDUCATION. THIS ACCOLADE SERVES AS A TESTAMENT TO SHEPARD'S STATUS AS A TRUE PIONEER, WHOSE FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE TO GUIDE HUMANITY'S JOURNEY AMONG THE STARS.

WITH HONOR & REPECT.

ALAN BARTLETT SHEPARD JR. | (NOVEMBER 18, 1923 - JULY 21, 1998)

ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 DIAMOND AWARD

HONORING ALAN B. SHEPARD JR

Astronaut Rock Star **Diamond Award** will be presented to Laura Shepard-Churchley, from Astronaut Wendy Lawrence, date and time TBC.



Laura Shepard Churchley was born in Wilmington, Delaware. She is the eldest daughter of Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard Jr. Laura lives in Evergreen, Colorado with her husband, Frederick William Churchley, III. Laura is active in the space and astronaut community to promote what her father started. She is currently the Chair of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees. This foundation raises funds for college students and provides mentoring to these scholars who are pursuing careers and research in STEM.

As the daughter of Alan B. Shepard, the first American in space and the first to hit a golf ball on the surface of the moon (on Apollo 14), Laura makes presentations to school students, donning her father's flight suit and showing artifacts that have traveled to the moon and back. She thinks space travel is essential for expanding man's horizons and for encouraging innovation. She would like to see more attention paid to U.S. space endeavors in the future.

(Photos (L) Laura Shepard-Churchley, Credit: Blue Origin, (R) This is a family portrait of astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. and his family. Louise Shepard, Alan B. Shepard Jr., Laura Shepard, Julie Shepard, Alice Shepard. January 1971 (Credit: Shepard Family)

ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 DIAMOND AWARD

HONORING ALAN B. SHEPARD JR

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Wendy Lawrence (Captain, US Navy, Retired) is an engineer, pilot (helicopter), and a former NASA Astronaut. She flew on four space shuttle missions: STS-67, STS-86, STS-91 and STS-114. She was selected by NASA for astronaut training in 1992, the first female Naval Academy graduate to earn the distinction.

Lawrence is passionate about students and inspiring the next generation to “Dare to Dream” especially in fields of STEM, and is on the board of AstraFemina, who’s mission is to open more girls’ minds to joining the ranks in STEM to soar to new heights.

*“In 1961 I was not old enough to remember the historic launch on May 5th, but as I grew up I heard Alan Shepard’s name.. alot. Beacause my Dad, as a young Navy pilot back in the 1950’s had been Alan Shepard’s wingman, and they had become very close friends. I feel very priviledged and honored to have followed in Alan Shepard’s footsteps.” - Wendy Lawrence*

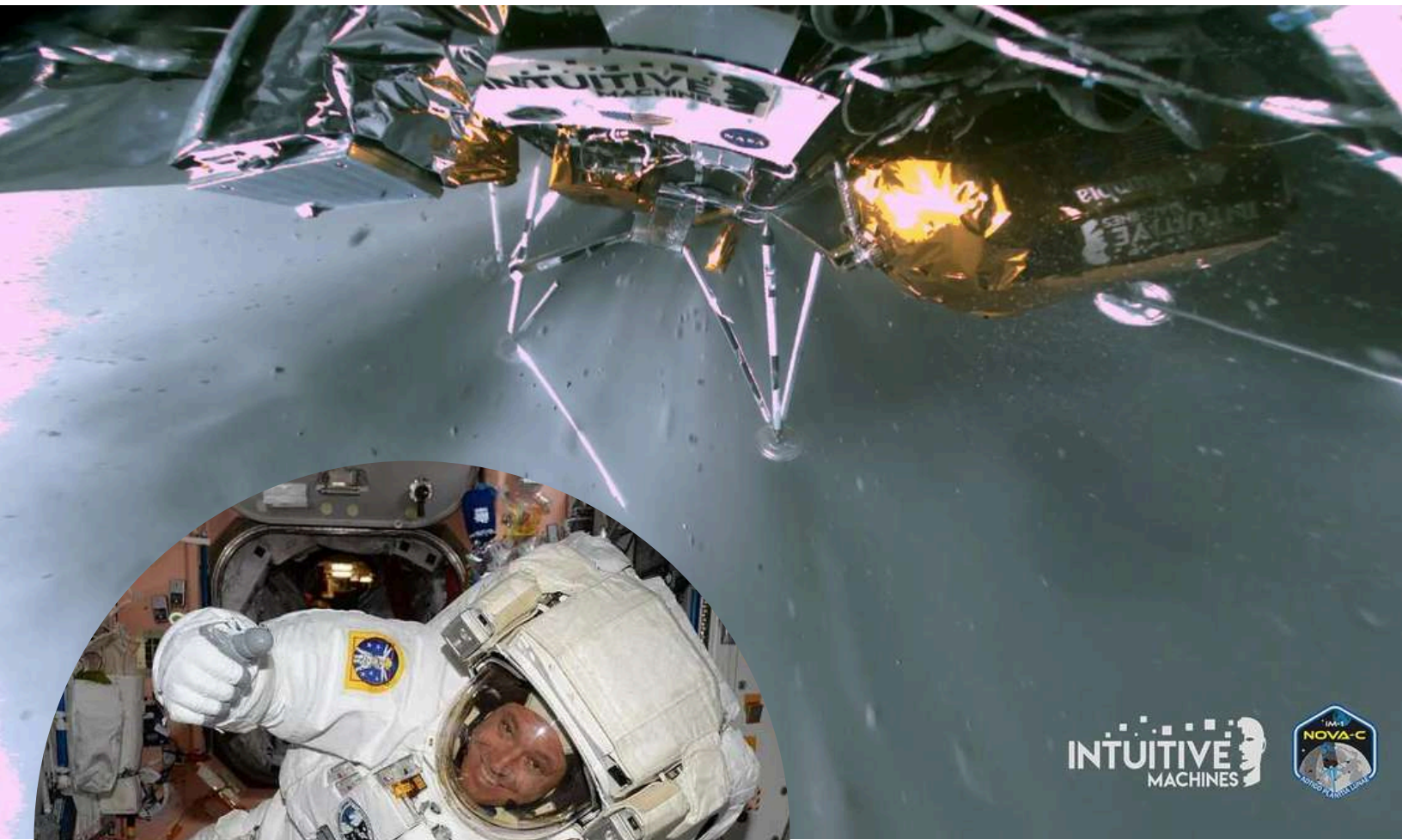
(Photos (L) Wendy Lawrence, Credit: NASA, (R) Wendy Lawrence with her Father, U.S. Navy Vice Adm. William Lawrence. (Credit: Wendy Lawrence)

ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 PLATINUM AWARD

CELEBRATING JACK D. FISCHER & “ODIE”

Astronaut Rock Star **Platinum Award** will be presented by OAR on July 20, 2024 in Boston, MA



*An image released by Intuitive Machines Feb. 28, 2024 showed the moment of landing six days earlier, including a landing lag that broke as the spacecraft touched down faster than planned. (Photo: Intuitive Machines)*

*Astronaut Jack Fischer inside the International Space Station in his spacesuit during a fit check for his 1st EVA. (EXP-51, May 2017) (Photo: NASA)*

ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 PLATINUM AWARD

CELEBRATING JACK D. FISCHER & “ODIE”

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ASTRONAUT JACK D. FISCHER'S VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AT INTUITIVE MACHINES HAS EARNED HIM THE ESTEEMED ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR PLATINUM AWARD ON NATIONAL ASTRONAUT DAY, RECOGNIZING HIS GROUNDBREAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN SPACE EXPLORATION. FISCHER'S PIVOTAL ROLE IN GUIDING THE IM-1 MISSION, WHICH MARKED THE FIRST MOON LANDING BY A PRIVATE COMPANY IN HISTORY, UNDERSCORES HIS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING HUMANITY'S REACH BEYOND EARTH'S BOUNDARIES.

INTUITIVE MACHINES' HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024, WITH THE NOVA-C LUNAR LANDER, REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT LEAP FORWARD IN SPACE EXPLORATION. THIS MARKED THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE-DECADES THAT AN AMERICAN LUNAR MISSION LANDED SAFELY ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON AND TRANSMITTED BACK TO EARTH VALUABLE DATA AND THE CLOSEST OBSERVATIONS OF ANY SPACE FLIGHT MISSION TO THE SOUTH POLE REGION OF THE MOON. FISCHER'S INSTRUMENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN OVERSEEING THE MISSION'S SUCCESS, FROM ITS LAUNCH AT KENNEDY SPACE CENTER TO ITS SOFT LANDING ON THE MOON'S SOUTH POLE REGION, HAS CAPTURED THE WORLD'S IMAGINATION AND REIGNITED ENTHUSIASM FOR LUNAR EXPLORATION.

A DECORATED AIR FORCE PILOT AND SEASONED ASTRONAUT, COLONEL JACK D. FISCHER'S EXEMPLARY CAREER EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION AND DETERMINATION DRIVING MODERN SPACE EXPLORATION. WITH A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE GARNERED FROM HIS TIME ABOARD THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION AND HIS EXTENSIVE FLIGHT HOURS AS AN AIR FORCE COMMAND PILOT, FISCHER EMBODIES THE QUALITIES OF A TRUE SPACE PIONEER.

WE BELIEVE IN ASTRONAUTS



ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 GOLD AWARD

SPOTLIGHTING YURIDIA SANCHEZ



*Growing up, Yuridia Sanchez, currently a senior at Nogales High School, recalls being obsessed with space, staying up late at night to stargaze and waking up at the crack of dawn to see rocket launches in the morning.*

*Now, a commendable student, STEMist, and inspiration to her community, Yuridia Sanchez stands as a beacon of hard work and appreciation for those around her. Yuridia has long held a passion for science and space.*

*(Photo: Higher Orbits)*

# 2024 GOLD AWARD

SPOTLIGHTING SOPHIA CROWDER



*Sophia Crowder is a Student Ambassador for Higher Orbits, a STEMflights aviation scholar, a Space Coast Scholar of the Virginia Space Grant Consortium/NASA-Wallops, & founder of a girl-empowering initiative, ITGirls. Sophie aspires to inspire the next generation of STEMists, Innovators, and Space Explorers.*

*Sophia hopes to one day be an innovator for the space program whether as an engineer and/or as a test pilot, in whatever capacity she can best contribute to the advancement of science and space exploration.*

*(Photo: Higher Orbits)*

ASTRONAUT ROCK STAR AWARDS

# 2024 GOLD AWARD

SPOTLIGHTING THE SCIENCE HAVEN  
STELLAR DREAMS PROGRAM



## STELLAR DREAMS

*Our mission is simple:*

*100 telescopes for 100 families across the USA.*

*With a concerning decrease in students pursuing degrees in physics, astronomy, and astrophysics over the last decade, it's clear there's a disparity that needs addressing. The Stellar Dreams Program seeks to improve this staggering disparity by fueling 100 dreams that illuminate a lifetime of discovery.*

*(Photo: The Science Haven)*

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# THE MOVEMENT

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#WEBELIEVEINASTRONAUTS

**NASA Astronauts** @NASA\_Astronauts · May 5, 2022  
#OTD In 1961, NASA astronaut Alan Shepard became the first American to fly in space aboard his Mercury capsule named Freedom 7.

How have NASA astronauts inspired you to follow your dreams?  
#NationalAstronautDay



Jessica Watkins and 2 others

**PEANUTS** @Snoopy · 32s  
Adventuring to the stars ✨ #NationalAstronautDay



**Girl Scouts** @girlscouts · May 5, 2020  
Shoot for the stars with these two EPIC events coming up TODAY—  
#NationalAstronautDay! Invite your non-Girl Scout besties and register now! 🌟 6:15 PM EST: bddy.me/2YzP9me 🌟 7:15 PM EST: bddy.me/3dnYqCh



**everydayastronaut** Cedar Falls, Iowa

**everydayastronaut** In honor of #nationalastronautday, here's to bound astronauts. "Spaceships. F for @teslamotors #projectioveca Video by me and @neals\_my\_nam @rotorvisual Edited - 359w

**lesauvage.media** brilliant 334w Reply

**rich\_mind1089** Hello my friend , 345w Reply

**Joelgrenon** This is gold 347w Reply

**lucixarena** THIS IS SO AMAZING @everydayastronaut I love it!!! 347w Reply

16 44

**The White House** @WhiteHouse · May 5, 2019  
Buzz Aldrin is among the most legendary astronauts in history. I also one of @FLOTUS' special guests to this year's State of the Union.

One of the first men on the moon, Buzz planted the American flag on the face of the moon fifty years ago.

Happy National Astronaut Day!



**letlandmelvin** I did it! Astronaut Day until I Shepard flew 19 minutes in Freedom 7 and colleagues who h to those we honor th as explorers looking t planet. This day is als inspired explorers th where ro earthing hi #nationalastronauts 10w

**woahderebecca** This the top of your profile 10w Like Reply

**volpalata\_1988** Brev 10w Reply

**lynnwshff** 10w Reply

Liked by nationastat May 5, 2022

Add a comment...

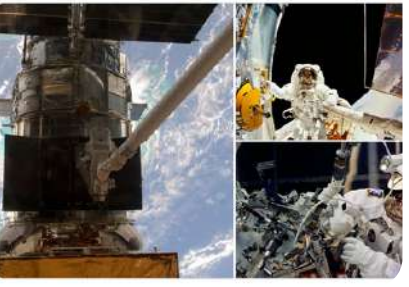
**r.e.m. beauty** @rembeauty · May 5, 2022  
happy #nationalastronautday! today, like the explorers before us, we hope you're inspired to reach your wildest dreams. and don't forget to bring your products along for the ride!



**Hubble** @NASAHubble · May 5, 2022  
Happy #AstronautDay! 🌟

Hubble's astronauts set the telescope up for success. Thanks to work, Hubble's observations have changed our understanding of the universe.

Learn more our astronauts and play trivia here: [go.nasa.gov/37h](https://go.nasa.gov/37h)



Join us on **LIVE** EDT MAY 5, 2017  
NASA  
ARMY

**usarmy** Today is #NationalAstronautDay  
Join us for a special Facebook Live with Astronaut Maj. Anne C. Mc about how her #USA military career led to becoming a @nasa astrod  
We will be taking questions @nasaJohnson, so join us o page, 1 p.m. EDT, Friday, M 2017  
**Joeymartin537** patient ide patient identification 10w Reply  
**Joeymartin537** Hi. We four word giving. And that was fact of living 10w Reply  
**JudyJetr** I love you me 22w Reply  
7,500 likes May 5, 2017  
Add a comment...



**astro\_Jessica** Mike Massim Happy #astronautday

**astro\_Jessica** @got\_repost. Thanks for the shout-out! excited to share this adventure with you! can watch my launch on Sept 25 on Journey on @nasa TV. <https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/>  
On #NationalAstronautDay, we cele Mar '99. At Brown, @astro\_Jessica biology before going on to earn a Ph.D. in marine biology from @UCR in 2013. Meir was selected by @nasa as a member of the 21st NASA astronaut class currently training for her upcoming International Space Station, where she'll spend the following six months.  
When asked what her favorite part is, she said: "Every day is different, and me active. One day I might be training in an underwater, and the next I'll be lea to conduct an on-orbit experiment, operating the space station's robot cargo vehicle, flying in the T-38 as a Pilot-in-Command, or just hanging out with my crew." <https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/>  
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