YOUR LEGACY LAUNCHING AN EXCITING FUTURE

MERCURY 7 SOCIETY
FROM LEGACY TO TOMORROW

In 1961, the bold vision and challenge of a young president set into motion an unstoppable quest to go where no man had gone before. The heroes of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs channeled their talents, ambitions and courage to fulfill this vision by the end of the decade. Their achievements unleashed a wave of global innovation and inspired bold thinkers to pursue science, technology, engineering and math careers that have significantly shaped our world.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation is committed to continuing that tradition of influencing young minds and passing the torch to a new generation of explorers. Through our prestigious scholarship program, we propel gifted students who apply their own talents and ambitions to shaping their future and the world in which they live. We invite you to join the Mercury 7 Society and be a part of our mission to keep America on the leading edge of technology and innovation.

MERCURY 7 SOCIETY

The Mercury 7 Society is our way of honoring the pioneers of the space program who founded ASF while celebrating the generosity of friends who are providing support for the future innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs through a gift in their will or estate plans. The Mercury astronauts were inspired to use their good to make an impact on the next generation. Their idea succeeded beyond expectation, enabling the ASF to benefit hundreds of the best and brightest students in the decades since. Through your estate gift, you can provide a meaningful way to honor the dream that began with the Mercury astronauts and now becomes part of your story.

Working with ASF staff, you can share how you would like your legacy to impact the future. Together, you can explore new frontiers, create an endowment supporting a field that is of personal interest or fund an existing program. As a member of the Mercury 7 Society, you are demonstrating a commitment to furthering exploration in science, technology, engineering and math.

As a distinguished supporter of the Mercury 7 Society, we offer you the following:

• Invitation to the Mercury 7 Society Annual Induction Luncheon

• Astronauts, Astronaut Scholar Alum and Board Members welcome new and current members of the Mercury 7 Society to be recognized for their generosity and ASF’s appreciation for your legacy gift. The President & CEO along with the Chairman will provide you with updates and share stories of the difference being made.

• Receive a commemorative Mercury 7 Society gift

• Bi-annual electronic updates on the Foundation, planned giving vehicles and other information

• Invitation to participate in bi-annual virtual update

• Recognition on website

• Recognition in annual report

*See back of booklet for Legacy Membership Commitment form
WHY I JOINED...

GEORGE AND LISA SCHOTT, ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR
We have been dedicated to the mission of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) for a long time. In fact, our involvement goes back to 1987, just 3 years after it was founded as the Mercury 7 Foundation. Lisa was among the earliest scholarship recipients and has remained involved in a variety of volunteer and leadership roles. Lisa began by volunteering her time, out of gratitude for the financial support that she received while studying at Georgia Tech. She is now the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and founder of the scholarship alumni group, the Astronaut Scholars Honor Society. George is a dedicated volunteer, attending events, helping wherever needed, and frequently winning live auction bids. We appreciate the opportunities that ASF has provided to us and are pleased to have the ability to create similar opportunities for the next generation of scientists and engineers.

When you reach the point in life where you begin thinking about the legacy that you want to leave behind, you tend to reflect on others who have impacted the world in a positive way. The Mercury 7 Astronauts and their colleagues Henri Landwirth and Dr. Bill Douglas made a tremendous impression on us. Each of them achieved things in their careers beyond what most people even dream of; they truly reached the pinnacle of technical accomplishment. However, they decided that they did not want to rest on the laurels of their incredible accomplishments. They wanted to impact future generations by creating this scholarship foundation to support all frontiers of science and engineering and inspire future generations to ensure that America retains its world leadership in technology and innovation. Like the Mercury 7, we want to be remembered not only for our engineering career accomplishments but also for giving back. As Wally Schirra once said, “When all is said and done, the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation may be our greatest legacy.”

ED AND SANDY GRACE, VOLUNTEER & STEM SUPPORTER
I had the good fortune of working on the Apollo program for ten years, 1963 – 1972, at the MIT Draper Labs, designing and developing the Primary Guidance Navigation & Control System used to control and fly the Command and Lunar Modules. We had many meetings with the Astronauts on how best to design the Guidance System to meet their requirements. We also provided on-site support during missions at Johnson Space Center. I was at Johnson Space Center Mission Control for the Apollo 13 flight and a member of the Mission Operations Team awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Nixon in 1970.

About 12 years ago, I was watching the Tom Hanks Apollo 13 movie with my nine-year-old nephew, who was visiting us, explaining to him what was happening. Soon after he returned home to Michigan, I received a phone call requesting that I be his “show and tell” for his third-grade class. Of course, I fulfilled his request, and next, purely by word of mouth, my wife and I were speaking at many different schools and organizations about the Apollo 13 mission.

That led us to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, where my wife and I have volunteered for the past five years. We attend the Innovators Week & Gala, which honors the incoming Astronaut Scholars each year. During the conference, each of the scholars gives a short presentation on the research they are doing at their school. We were so blown away with the technical presentations made by the scholars that we joined the mentor program and have now mentored three ASF scholars as they pursue their education.

Being part of helping these kids get their STEM education is very rewarding to us and we would like to assist the ASF in the future by joining the Mercury 7 Society and making a commitment to support ASF’s mission to nurture exceptional and bright STEM college students for years to come with our estate plan.
HUGH HARRIS, VOLUNTEER & STEM SUPPORTER

I believe that giving is an acknowledgement of one of the deepest aspirations of humankind - the desire to leave the world a better place than we found it. We accomplish that in a myriad of ways (often with the help of many other people) but in the end it is a very personal effort of one person helping another.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation has helped more than 600 scholars directly but indirectly improved the lives of potentially millions more through their work. You can read the stories of how a few of those scholars are sharing their lives with the rest of the world on the ASF website.

I was drawn to helping ASF from its beginnings by my relationship with the astronauts but equally by the vision that so many supporters share with ASF.

I was privileged to accompany Alan Shepard on several speaking engagements after his first flight. Back in the 1960s, we discussed, and I observed, his deep commitment to encouraging young people to seek advanced education in the technical professions. Even though I knew the early astronauts as rough and ready fighter pilots who loved practical jokes and meeting their buddies at the local watering holes in Cocoa Beach, they also often were uneasy with being in the spotlight and aware that what they said and did could have far reaching effects.

So, I was not surprised when in 1984 Shepard and the rest of the original seven astronauts created the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation; I was instantly ready to support it in my job with NASA as well as outside of work. The question for me was how I could best help the Foundation. I was able to help through various activities, but real money is the biggest essential. For me that meant multiplying what I will eventually be able to give by making ASF the partial beneficiary of the investment account I created for my children. It might have worked equally well with an insurance policy but by partnering with the stock market I am hoping for a bigger bequest than I could make otherwise.

PAUL AND DELLENE “DEE” CARLSON, STEM SUPPORTER

Paul and Dellene “Dee” Carlson saw the space industry grow in front of their eyes. Dee was one of only a few women who worked on NASA’s space program in the 1960s and 70s. Sometimes the only woman in a room with hundreds of men, there were times when she was denied promotions or annual salary increases due to her gender. But, much like the accomplished female ASF Scholars making critical contributions to today’s space industry, Dee was fueled by a desire to prove herself as a vital asset no matter the team or space company she joined.

Today, thanks to people like Dee, many more girls are paving new roads in the world of space.

Paul’s career in the industry spanned from the beginning of the space program, working on the Mercury program with McDonnell Aircraft, later called McDonnell Douglas, and continued as the space program grew, working on the Gemini and Apollo programs with McDonnell Douglas. Paul’s work in the space industry did not stop there. He also worked on the Space Shuttle program with Lockheed.

Paul and Dee embodied the character traits we hope to inspire in our Astronaut Scholars – ambition, self-motivation, adaptability, high ethical standards, persistence, and tenacity. Having watched the space program grow first-hand, they uniquely understood the importance of cultivating a new generation of explorers committed to technological breakthroughs.
SCHOLARS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

ANDREW ISHIZUKA, 2009 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

"The validation and support of ASF launched me into dual degree training in medicine and immunology. I’ll also never forget the visit to KSC, especially seeing the shuttle engines up close. That trip continues to inspire me – even to this day – to push the limits of my field."

- Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Avidea Technologies, a biotech developing novel immunotherapies for cancer and autoimmune diseases.
- Expert in T cell immunology and translational research. Earned a PhD (2017) in the NIH-Oxford Scholars program and MD (expected 2022) from Duke. His work – along with his co-founder’s – has led to the development of a groundbreaking peptide-based cancer vaccine.

BELINDA SHRECKENGOST, 1999 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

"I was both excited and honored to receive my scholarship in 1999, when I realized this organization of history-making astronauts and space enthusiasts was recognizing me for my potential in STEM and future work in aerospace. The money itself was critical in helping me fund my college education, but the inspiration continues to drive me today. I’m so grateful to be part of the ASF alumni, and have the opportunity to connect with fellow members - but I consider myself truly privileged to participate in the ASF mentoring program and be part of the journey for the next generation."

- Thermal Systems Engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and joined the Mars 2020 mission in 2015.
- Supported the project through the design phase, hardware fabrication, assembly, and hardware testing. Responsible for verifying that the system can maintain spacecraft temperatures within acceptable limits – both during the Cruise to Mars and during Rover surface operations.

MICHAEL MARKESBERY, 2014 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

"Receiving the Astronaut Scholarship was an empowering experience. To have an astronaut fly to my college and present the scholarship to me - to have an institution like ASF believe in me and my work - gave me confidence in myself. And it doesn’t end upon receipt of the scholarship - there is a large community - you are always an Astronaut Scholar."

- Co-founder & CEO of OROS, using NASA-inspired technology, it has become one of the fastest growing performance apparel companies in the U.S.
- Recognized as a Forbes 30 Under 30 businessperson.
TIM JACKSON, 2001 & 2002 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

As an astronaut scholar myself (20 years ago now!), who today serves as a mentor to scholars through ASF’s mentorship program, the first word that comes to mind is humbling. Knowing that it came from pioneers – the original Mercury 7, I was humbled to receive the recognition and scholarship back in the early 2000’s. Today, in giving back as a mentor, I am humbled by the intellect, the drive, and the passion that our current scholars bring – not only to their academics but to extracurricular and philanthropic efforts as well.

• Vice–President of Program Management & Business Transformation at Boston Scientific, a manufacturer of medical devices used in interventional medical specialties.

• Holds 16 US Patents and has made significant contributions to the development of Cardiac Rhythm Management, Insertable Cardiac Monitor and Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (treatment for heart failure) devices, clinical studies, implantable and wearable diagnostic devices.

JILLIAN YURICICH, 2014 & 2015 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

“The Astronaut Scholar Award allowed me to pursue internships far from home and covered the cost of my tuition. The scholarship was a lifeboat and gave me the gift of internships. The scholars are also absorbed into an ever-growing fraternity of passionate students and professionals, diverse in both thought and background. I don’t know what my college experience would have been like without ASF, but I’m thankful that I’ll never have to find out.”

• Trajectory Analysis Engineer at Space X, an American aerospace manufacturer, space transportation services and communications corporation.

• Ensures public safety for every launch and helps design and plan future missions. Prior to this position, worked on the F/A-18 flight line with the Naval Air Warfare Center developing skills to push high-powered, expensive systems to their limits.

ANDREW JONES, 2008 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

“I would not be where I am today without the Astronaut Scholarship. The publicity from the award attracted a local investor to connect with me and our paths eventually led us to start a company together 7 years later. This scholarship and the ASF community are unlike any I have ever encountered, and I am honored to be a part of it.”

• Entrepreneur and founder of Activated Research Company (ARC); Solvere awarded #1 in 2019 The Analytical Scientist Innovation Award.

• ARC designs and manufactures analytical instrumentation for chemical analysis. The products are used for research, QA/QC, pharmaceutical purity and more.
The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. To continue our mission, we rely on the generous donations and the planned legacy gifts of our supporters. Your contribution is tax deductible and is limited to the excess of the contribution over the fair market value of any items received in exchange for the donation. Your contribution supports educating the next generation of American scientists, engineers and mathematicians.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of the Treasury policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.