



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Receives \$10,000 Gift from Breitling**  
*In Honor of the 60th Anniversary of Scott Carpenter's Historic Mercury-Atlas 7 Mission  
and Carpenter's Commitment to Fueling Future Innovators*

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy [spoke these words](#), “Now it is time to take longer strides--time for a great new American enterprise--time for this nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on earth.”

NASA officially launched the U.S. space program by selecting seven astronauts as part of [NASA's Project Mercury](#), including [Scott Carpenter](#) and just one year after President Kennedy spoke those impactful words, Carpenter orbited the Earth aboard the Aurora 7 spacecraft and became the first astronaut to conduct scientific experiments in space. In 1984, more than 20 years after his historic flight, Carpenter joined the other five surviving Mercury 7 astronauts in a quest to inspire a nation to pursue scientific excellence through STEM education.

This led to the creation of the Mercury 7 Foundation, now known as the [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#). The prestigious Astronaut Scholarship is known nationwide for being among the largest merit-based monetary scholarships awarded to undergraduate juniors and seniors pursuing STEM degrees.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of Carpenter's flight, [Breitling](#), a leading Swiss watchmaker, has honored Carpenter's legacy by generously donating \$10,000 to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. Breitling recently unveiled the original Navitimer Cosmonaute – worn by Carpenter during his [Mercury-Atlas 7 mission](#) in 1962 – and [launched a modern tribute to it](#). The special release is limited to 362 pieces that recognize both the spacecraft's circumnavigations of Earth and the year the mission made history, marking a crucial step in human spaceflight.

While this generous gift from Breitling honors the legacy of Carpenter, it also commemorates the newest release of the Navitimer Cosmonaute and will help to propel the next generation of explorers and changemakers – our Astronaut Scholars. This gift continues the work Carpenter and his fellow astronauts began with ASF nearly 40 years ago.

“Scott was dedicated to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation for nearly 30 years... One of the things I remember and appreciate most was how he engaged with Astronaut Scholars. He was curious about our studies, research, and scientific interests. This inspired me because he had already achieved so much in life. And yet, he was always enthusiastic about learning new things and gave his time to help the next generation of scientists and engineers.” – Lisa Schott, 1987, 1988, & 1989 Astronaut Scholar

As a founding member, Carpenter inspired, supported, and befriended numerous Astronaut Scholars. His genuine interest in their research and pursuits left a significant impression on them and undoubtedly contributed to their own success and societal impact.



"As a member of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees, and as Scott's widow, I along with the Carpenter family, are deeply moved that Breitling has chosen to honor Scott's work with their generous gift." – Patty Carpenter

To learn more about this special Navitimer Cosmonaute release, [click here](#).

### **About Breitling**

Founded in 1884, [Breitling](#) is a leading Swiss watchmaker. The innovative company invented the modern chronograph and pioneered the navigational tool watch. Today, it's still breaking new ground as a casual, inclusive, and sustainable luxury brand with more than 150 industrial-loft-inspired retail locations around the world. Breitling's collections center around air, land, and sea pursuits, all captured in the brand's unmistakable modern-retro style. The exceptional quality of every watch movement is confirmed by its status as a COSC-certified chronometer, and the brand remains one of only a handful of independent watchmakers to produce its own manufacture calibers. Combining classic watchmaking with the latest innovations, Breitling is both a company with history and one that's ahead of its time.

### **About Astronaut Scholarship Foundation**

The [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF) is an Orlando-based 501(c)3 nonprofit commemorating the legacy of America's pioneering astronauts. Founded by the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts in 1984, ASF partners with industry leaders, universities, and individual donors to achieve its mission of supporting and rewarding the best and brightest college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

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