

**Nobel Prize Unveiling Remarks
The Honorable Shana Dale
NASA Deputy Administrator
July 31, 2008**

Welcome, and thank you for joining us today to honor Dr. John Mather. As you know, Dr. Mather, along with Dr. George Smoot of the University of California, received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2006. Now, we have the honor to unveil the Nobel Prize that will be displayed at NASA Headquarters and again commend Dr. Mather for his outstanding work. He is the first NASA civil servant to receive this prestigious prize and we are proud to have him as part of the NASA family.

This remarkable man had an early interest in science and a relentless thirst for knowledge. As a young schoolboy growing up in Sussex County, New Jersey, he entered science fairs and conducted experiments under his family's kitchen table. He demonstrates to all of us that a child's curiosity can lead to profound discoveries about the Universe. So, the next time your child is tinkering with your radio or cell phone or messing up your kitchen with inventions -- remember that son or daughter could be a Nobel Laureate in training.

Dr. Mather's curiosity has served him well. He led the Cosmic Background Explorer mission, where NASA launched a satellite in 1989 to test the Big Bang theory of the origin of the Universe. From this work, he and Dr. Smoot received the Noble prize.

Let's just take a moment and think about the statement from the Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics, "It is one of the greatest discoveries of the century. I would call it the greatest." One of the men responsible for the greatest discovery of the century sits in our midst, works in our agency, and is unbelievable humble about his accomplishments. He continues his work for NASA as the Senior Project Scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope. Dr. Mather is working on a mission that will find the first galaxies that formed in the early Universe, connecting the Big Bang to our own Milky Way.

On behalf of NASA, I want to thank you for your incredible work and continued dedication to our past and our future. Dr. Mather, your contributions to the science community, and the world at large, are immense and we are delighted to recognize your achievements today. Congratulations to you, to your wife Jane, and to your entire family.

Now, I'd like to introduce the Associate Administrator for Science, Dr. Ed Weiler, a distinguished scientist, a man who knows NASA well, and a man I consider a friend.

Thank you.