

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



July 20, 2005

Captain John W. Young, USN (Ret)

Dear John,

Congratulations on receiving your well-deserved NASA Ambassador of Exploration Award. What a great honor for you to share with Susy, your family, and the many friends and supporters of the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The Ambassador of Exploration Award recognizes the sacrifices and dedication of the Apollo, Gemini, and Mercury astronauts. This recognition not only serves as a testament to the tremendous accomplishments of our first-generation astronauts but also provides a wonderful example of dedication and devotion to space exploration that will inspire new generations of explorers. Your superb service on six space missions, including two Gemini flights, the Apollo 10 dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing, the Apollo 16 mission to the lunar highlands at Descartes, the first Space Shuttle mission (STS-1), and the first Space Shuttle/Spacelab mission (STS-9), has earned you a national reputation as a true Ambassador of Exploration. I know of no one who is more deserving of this prestigious award. You have truly earned it through your extraordinary and visionary contributions to our Nation and to NASA.

The men and women of NASA are now engaged in the work that will enable our Nation to return humans to the Moon, send robotic explorers and ultimately human pioneers to Mars, and explore other destinations in our solar system and beyond. In taking on this challenge, we welcome the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the heroic astronauts like you who blazed our first pathway beyond Earth. Again, please accept my congratulations on being recognized for your significant contributions to the exploration of space.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael D. Griffin
Administrator