

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



August 26, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. President:

I would request that you accept my resignation as the Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration effective October 3, 2005. If appropriate, I will stay in that role until my successor has been confirmed by the Senate.

During the 31 years that I have been associated with NASA, first as a research test pilot, then as an astronaut, and finally holding senior leadership positions in the agency including the privilege of being nominated by you to be the Deputy Administrator, each day has resulted in an unmatched level of excitement. As I've watched NASA grow through many administrations, I have been ever humbled by the support that our nation has provided for our journeys, the influence on the next generation, and the great respect and admiration demonstrated by our international friends.

As the Deputy Administrator, I have participated in most of the NASA successes and, unfortunately the loss of my friends on-board the Columbia. With great pride, however, I will be able to recall the unstoppable Mars Exploration Rovers, the Cassini-Huygens Saturn Mission, Deep Impact and the X-43A scramjet-powered research vehicles. I will always be amazed by the images from the Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes. I know that our earth will profit from the knowledge gained by the insight provided by the Aura and the IceSat spacecrafts.

Five years of continuous human occupancy on the International Space Station. Many said that it would be unachievable. What we will learn from this experience, however, will yield unimagined knowledge necessary for our next human endeavors.

I could not, therefore, depart without personally thanking you for your confidence in NASA, allowing this Agency to lead the Exploration Vision, the great adventure that lets us depart Low Earth Orbit in search of the unknown. This is an adventure that will have a profound impact, not only on our understanding of what's out there, but also, how that understanding will help prepare us for the future no matter what it is. Your confidence in NASA is well recognized and appreciated.

I've had an exciting career in NASA but it is now time to step down so that someone younger and highly motivated can have the same experience.

Please give my best wishes to your parents and of course to your lovely wife Laura.

Respectfully,


Frederick Drew Gregory