A National Tribute to Sally Ride

A lifetime of accomplishment,
a champion of science literacy
A National Tribute to Sally Ride

Miles O’Brien, Master of Ceremonies
Welcome and program overview, acknowledgement of tribute sponsors, introduction of Sally Ride’s family

Video: Sally Ride’s Legacy

Charles F. Bolden Jr., NASA Administrator
Opening remarks

Dance: “Jordan” from Sweet Fields, Choreographed by Twyla Tharp
Set to the music of the hymn “Jordan” by William Billings
Staged by Rika Okamoto and Alexander Brady
Lighting design by Jennifer Tipton; costume design by Norma Kamali;
costumes provided by Tom Mossbrucker, Artistic Director, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
Dancers from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Susan Jaffe, Dean of Dance;
Brenda Daniels, Associate Dean of Dance
Choir from Centreville High School Choral Union, Lynne Babcock, Choir Director

Pamela Melroy, former Astronaut, and Leland D. Melvin,
NASA Associate Administrator for Education
Sally Ride’s impact on the astronaut corps and the space program

U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski
How Sally Ride changed STEM education and policy

Karen Flammer, Co-Founder of Sally Ride Science
Sally Ride Science’s educational outreach programs for NASA, ISS EarthKAM and GRAIL MoonKAM

Video tribute by Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State
Sally Ride’s vision of science literacy for all students

Musical Performance: Damian Kulash of OK Go
“All Is Not Lost”

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Mars as Art
Specially curated images of Mars

Musical Performance: Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras,
Emil de Cou, Guest Conductor
Clair de Lune by Claude Debussy

Craig Barrett, retired CEO/Chairman, Intel Corporation
Sally Ride’s impact on support for STEM education in corporate America

Alice Zhao, Harvard University student
An aspiring statistician and Intel Talent Search finalist talks about
what inspired her to study math and science

Billie Jean King, Tennis legend, champion of social change
It takes a critical mass of support to change our culture, but it also takes inspirational role models

Musical Performance: Patti Austin, accompanied by Mike Ricchiuti on piano
“Way Up There” by Tena Clark

Charles F. Bolden Jr., NASA Administrator
Announcements

Maria Shriver, Journalist and former First Lady of California
Poetry reading, “The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver

Miles O’Brien, Master of Ceremonies
Closing remarks
When Sally Ride became the first American woman to soar into space, she captured the nation’s imagination as a symbol of the ability of women to break barriers. But Sally’s historic flight represented just one aspect of a remarkable and multifaceted life. She was also a physicist, a science writer, and an inspirational advocate for science literacy.

Sally was born on May 26, 1951, in Los Angeles, California, and she spent her childhood in Encino. As a young girl she was fascinated by science. She also grew up playing sports. She competed in national junior tennis tournaments and was good enough to win a tennis scholarship to Westlake School for Girls in Los Angeles. In 1977 Sally already had degrees in physics and English from Stanford University and was finishing her Ph.D. in physics when she saw an ad in the Stanford student newspaper saying that NASA was looking for astronauts—and for the first time was allowing women to apply. Sally sent in her application—along with 8,000 other people. She was one of 35 people—including six women—chosen to join the astronaut corps.

After a year of training Sally was selected as a mission specialist for mission STS-7 aboard the shuttle Challenger. When Challenger blasted off from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, on June 18, 1983, Sally soared into history as the first American woman in space. Her second flight, STS-41G, also aboard Challenger, launched on October 5, 1984. She later became the only person to serve on the presidential commissions investigating both of the nation’s space shuttle tragedies—the Challenger explosion in 1986 and the Columbia disaster in 2003. She retired from NASA in 1987 and became a science fellow at the Center for International Security and Arms Control at Stanford. In 1989 she joined the faculty at the University of California–San Diego as a professor of physics and director of the California Space Institute.

In 2001 Sally founded her own company, Sally Ride Science, to pursue her longtime passion for motivating girls and boys to study science and to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The company creates innovative classroom materials, classroom programs, and professional development training for teachers. Long an advocate for improved science education, Sally co-wrote seven science books for children, including The Third Planet (co-authored with Tam O’Shaughnessy), which won the American Institute of Physics Children’s Science Writing Award.

Sally was a member of the President’s Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology, and she served on the boards of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, Aerospace Corporation, and California Institute of Technology. Sally was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame, California Hall of Fame, and Astronaut Hall of Fame. In 2012 she was honored with the National Space Grant Distinguished Service Award.

Sally Ride died on July 23, 2012, after a 17-month battle with pancreatic cancer. In addition to Tam O’Shaughnessy, her life partner of 27 years, Sally is survived by her mother, Joyce; her sister, Bear, and Bear’s spouse, Susan; her niece, Caitlin, and nephew, Whitney; her staff at Sally Ride Science; and many friends and colleagues around the country.
About Tonight’s Program

Tonight we celebrate the impact of Sally Ride’s life and work. But this program also pays a more personal tribute by bringing together many things that had special meaning to Sally. The master of ceremonies and the speakers were Sally’s longtime friends and colleagues. They worked side-by-side with her to promote space exploration and champion science and technology literacy for all young people. Sally loved being a physicist and an astronaut, but she also loved sports, music, dance, and poetry. These loves are represented in tonight’s program—the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras playing Claude Debussy’s Clair de Lune, Twyla Tharp’s “Jordan” dance, Patti Austin singing Tena Clark’s “Way Up There,” and Maria Shriver reading Mary Oliver’s poem “The Summer Day.” Sally worked to motivate girls and boys to study science and engineering, but she understood that to engage the imaginations of young people, we must draw on their interests and enthusiasms from all areas of life.

About the Tribute Presenters

Miles O’Brien, the master of ceremonies for the National Tribute to Sally Ride, is a veteran broadcast and Web journalist who focuses on science, technology, and aerospace. He is science correspondent for PBS NewsHour and a correspondent for the PBS series Frontline and the National Science Foundation’s Science Nation series. For nearly 17 years he was science and space correspondent at CNN.

Charles F. Bolden Jr., a former astronaut, became NASA administrator in 2009. He is a retired Marine Corps major general who flew more than 100 combat missions during the Vietnam War. His 34-year career with the Marines included 14 years in NASA’s Astronaut Office. He flew on four space shuttle missions, serving as commander twice. Among his many honors are the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pamela Melroy is a former astronaut and retired Air Force colonel. After receiving her M.S. degree in Earth and planetary sciences from MIT, she attended Air Force pilot training and later logged more than 200 combat and combat-support hours. As an astronaut, she flew on three space shuttle missions, commanding one mission. She is now deputy director of the Tactical Technology Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Leland D. Melvin is NASA’s associate administrator for education. He joined NASA in 1989 as an aerospace research engineer and entered the astronaut corps in 1998, serving as a mission specialist on two missions to the International Space Station. In his current post he leads NASA’s education programs. He serves on the White House National Science and Technology Council committee that coordinates STEM education programs for all federal agencies.

U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski began her career as a social worker in Baltimore. She has a long record of fighting for women’s health care and aggressively advocating for jobs. As chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that funds America’s space agencies, she has fought for a balanced space program focused on safe and sustainable human spaceflight, robust space science and research, and the advancement of aeronautics. Currently in her fifth term, Senator Mikulski is the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Congress.
About the Tribute Presenters

Karen Flammer is a space physicist at the University of California–San Diego and one of the founders of Sally Ride Science. She has spent the last 17 years working to engage more students in science. Dr. Flammer directs ISS EarthKAM, a program that allows students to request images of Earth from cameras aboard the International Space Station. She oversees education and public outreach for NASA’s GRAIL MoonKAM mission and also directs education and professional development programs at Sally Ride Science.

Condoleezza Rice served as U.S. Secretary of State during the second term of President George W. Bush, becoming the first African-American woman to hold that post. Dr. Rice currently is a professor of political science at Stanford University, professor of political economy at Stanford’s Graduate School of Business, and a senior fellow on public policy at the Hoover Institution.

Damian Kulash is singer and guitarist for OK Go. The Grammy-winning band has sold more than 700,000 albums. Their self-directed videos have been viewed at least 150 million times online and shown in museums and at film festivals. Mr. Kulash graduated from Brown University. His commentaries have been published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and other major media outlets.

Emil de Cou was associate conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra for eight years before becoming music director of the Pacific Northwest Ballet in 2011. He has been a guest conductor with leading orchestras, including the Boston Pops and the orchestras of Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco. This summer will be his ninth season as conductor for the NSO @ Wolf Trap Festival.

The Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras (MCYO) is the oldest youth orchestra program in the Washington, D.C., area. The program, led by Artistic Director Jonathan Carney, is regarded as one of the country’s leading youth orchestras. Now in its 67th season, MCYO is a resident partner in the Music Center at Strathmore venue, where it presents performances by all age levels.

Dr. Craig Barrett is a leading advocate for improving education in the United States and around the world. He was elected to Intel Corporation’s Board of Directors in 1992, becoming Intel’s president in 1997, chief executive officer in 1998, and chairman of the board from 2005–09. Dr. Barrett attended Stanford University, receiving his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in materials science and serving on the Stanford faculty after graduation. Dr. Barrett chairs Change the Equation, a national coalition to improve education in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Alice Zhao is a sophomore at Harvard University studying statistics. Growing up in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, she enjoyed math and science. She was a finalist in Intel's 2010 Science Talent Search. Her project was a portable device to allow nanoparticles to be transported more efficiently. She hopes to find a career working with others using her quantitative and communicative skills.

Billie Jean King is a tennis legend and pioneer for social justice who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. She won 39 Grand Slam singles, doubles, and mixed-doubles titles. In a match that marked a turning point for women in sports, she triumphed over Bobby Riggs in the Battle of the Sexes on September 20, 1973. Ms. King helped form the Virginia Slims Series and founded the Women’s Tennis Association.
Tena Clark has written and produced hits for such iconic artists as Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle, Natalie Cole, Gladys Knight, and Dionne Warwick. Ms. Clark has contributed to movie soundtracks and written music for television shows and commercials. Her song “Way Up There” was commissioned by NASA and adopted as the theme song for the Centennial of Flight.

Patti Austin is an acclaimed singer known for her refined yet powerful voice and her ability to span genres. She has 19 solo albums to her credit. In 2008 she received the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album for Avant Gershwin. Ms. Austin’s philanthropic efforts include working to end domestic violence and supporting mentoring through the Over My Shoulder Foundation, which she co-founded.

Mike Ricchiuti is a keyboardist and composer who tours with Patti Austin as her pianist and musical director. His music is grounded in the jazz piano tradition, but he also is influenced by pop, soul, and funk. Mr. Ricchiuti has played with legendary big bands and symphonies around the world.

Maria Shriver is a mother of four, a Peabody and Emmy Award-winning journalist and producer, a best-selling author, and an influential voice on the shifting roles, emerging power, and evolving needs of women. She was California’s first lady from 2003 to 2010. Since 2009 she has produced a groundbreaking series of Shriver Reports that explore shifts in American culture and society that affect women. Ms. Shriver’s work is driven by her belief that all of us can be Architects of Change—a term she coined to describe people who use their ideas, influence, and initiative to make an impact on our world.

About the Dance Performance

Twyla Tharp choreographed Sweet Fields in 1996. The excerpt being performed is “Jordan,” set to a hymn of the same name by William Billings. Ms. Tharp has graciously donated tonight’s performance of “Jordan” to honor Sally Ride.

Dancers from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts are (back row from left) Anthony Sigler, Lauren Haug, Andrew Harper, Margaret Jones, William B. Fowler Jr., Graham Cole, Jake Sochaski, and William Smith (front row from left) Paige Amicon, Kathleen Baier, Amanda Potts, Lexi Johnston, and Emma Kate Tilson.
About the Dance Performance

Twyla Tharp has choreographed more than 160 works, including 129 dances, 12 television specials, five Hollywood movies, four full-length ballets, four Broadway shows, and two figure-skating routines. She has received one Tony Award, two Emmys, 19 honorary doctorates, the 2004 National Medal of the Arts, and a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor.


Alexander Brady, who staged “Jordan” with Rika Okamoto, trained at the Boston School of Ballet and School of American Ballet before dancing with Joffrey Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and Twyla Tharp Dance. Mr. Brady was in the original Broadway cast of Ms. Tharp’s Movin’ Out in 2002. He was assistant choreographer and dance captain for The Times They Are A-Changin’ and Come Fly Away.

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts is the first state-supported residential school of its kind in the nation. Students from high school through graduate school train for careers in five professional schools: dance, design and production, drama, filmmaking, and music. School of Dance Dean Susan Jaffe and Associate Dean Brenda Daniels teach and mentor the students dancing in “Jordan.”

Susan Jaffe was a principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre from 1980 to 2002. She is now dean of dance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She also teaches and choreographs.

Brenda Daniels is associate dean of dance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She was artistic director of her own company, Brenda Daniels Dance Company, from 1985 to 1995.

Lynne Babcock has been director of choral music at Centreville High School in Clifton, Virginia, since 2001. Under her direction, the Centreville High School choral department has become a fully sequential program of six choirs, from beginning to advanced levels. The choirs sing at community and school events in addition to presenting a year-long concert schedule. The Centreville High School Choral Union consists of Centreville’s Symphonic Choir and Bella Voce Women’s Ensemble as well as selected members of the Men’s Ensemble and Concert Choir.

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