

**Family Statement: Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope
Laura Bates Verreau and Barbara Bates Brinker**

When the family first heard about the decision to name the Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope after Nancy Grace, we were delighted that she would receive such public recognition for her great contributions to our understanding of the universe. We want to thank NASA and all of her colleagues who worked so hard to realize this wonderful idea. For many years, Nancy Grace worked in relative obscurity, known only to a few scientists, but this never deterred her. She firmly believed that space observation would offer years of good science, and this has proven to be the case.

Nancy Grace was a modest person but very determined when she believed in something. We are very proud that she stood up for herself in the early years when everyone told her that women could not be astronomers. She ignored people who told her it was not appropriate or that women didn't have the ability to work in the physical sciences and forged ahead with her studies. If she had not persisted, then we wouldn't have the benefit of her scientific contributions, and NASA wouldn't be naming a telescope after her!

Her own early experiences led her to a lifelong commitment to promoting opportunities for women in science. After her retirement from NASA, she devoted her time and efforts to advancing opportunities for women and encouraging young people to go into careers in science. Although the professional recognition of having a telescope named after her would certainly be gratifying to Nancy Grace, we think the possibility of inspiring other girls to reach for their own stars would give her the greatest satisfaction.