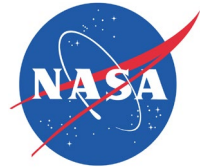


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Mary W. Jackson Building NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 21, 2023

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the National
Aviation Hall of Fame Dinner & Ceremony on September 22, 2023

On September 22, 2023, the National Aviation Hall of Fame, a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will hold their 59th Annual Enshrinement Dinner & Ceremony at the National Building Museum, 440 G. St., NW, Washington, DC, at 6:00 p.m. (reception) and 7:00 p.m. (dinner & ceremony). The purpose of the event is to celebrate the 2023 inductees into the Hall of Fame, this year's inductees include two former NASA Astronauts. NAHF is in control of the planning, organizing, and issuing invitations for this event.

Approximately 600 people are expected to attend the event. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include personnel from congressional staffers, state and local officials, academia, industry representatives, administration personnel, media, and space investors. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is approximately \$500 per person. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

NASA employees, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13989, who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their duties.

However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of the NAHF, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

Adam F. Greenstone