



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, February 29, 2024

**Space Shuttle Astronaut & Former NASA Administrator Richard Truly Dies at 86.**

We are saddened to share the passing of Astronaut Richard “Dick” Truly. Dick was a Naval Aviator and a graduate of the USAF Aerospace Pilot School. He was selected in the first group of military astronauts for the Department of Defense Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program; he became a NASA astronaut along with six other MOL astronauts in August of 1969 following the cancellation of the MOL program.

Dick served as CAPCOM for the three manned Skylab missions and the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. He, along with Joe Engle flew two of the five flights for the Shuttle Approach & Landing tests aboard Enterprise, and then flew with Engle again on his first Space Shuttle mission, STS-2. Truly then went on to command his second spaceflight, STS-8.

He served as the Associate Administrator for Space Flight following the Challenger accident and went on to become the first former astronaut to hold the position of NASA Administrator. Dick Truly was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2001 along with Bob Crippen, Joe Engle, and Rick Hauck.

Dick was a great friend to ASF and was instrumental in securing the Foundation's ongoing partnership with the prestigious Colorado School of Mines. Dick was a true space pioneer and we here on Earth will miss him as he now plays among the stars.

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