

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



April 20, 2012

Mr. David M. Walker  
Chair  
Roger W. Jones Award Selection Committee  
American University  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8022

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am honored to enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Mr. William H. Gerstenmaier for the 2012 Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership. I cannot suggest a finer or more worthy recipient.

Mr. Gerstenmaier has a long history of distinguished accomplishments at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the field of human spaceflight, and he is unsurpassed in his inspirational and motivational leadership. He was a flight controller at the Johnson Space Center from the beginning of the Space Shuttle era and a principal in the design and development of the first successful in-space propellant transfer experiments conducted on the Space Shuttle in the early 1980s. During his exemplary career, he played many other roles in the development of our Nation's spacefaring capability during the Space Shuttle Program (SSP). He also served as the program manager for the International Space Station (ISS) during which his leadership and collaboration with NASA's international partners transformed the ISS into a fully functional and operational facility. Most recently, he is known for his role as the Associate Administrator for the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (formerly Space Operations) at NASA. His significant responsibilities include retirement and transition of the SSP, completion of the ISS with a six-crew capacity, and development of the future space launch system and the multipurpose crew vehicle.

Mr. Gerstenmaier is regarded as the ultimate authority on the Space Shuttle and ISS. His reputation has been built upon his exhaustive technical knowledge of all things "space," his unparalleled leadership qualities, and his ironclad standard of integrity which serve as a model to all employees. His unwavering commitment to public service and

achievement of results that benefit all humanity are the essence of what American University's School of Public Affairs seeks in a recipient of the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership. I know of no better example of the consummate leader this award was created to recognize and give Mr. Gerstenmaier my highest endorsement for selection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CF Bolden Jr". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator

2 Enclosures:  
Roger W. Jones Award Nomination  
William H. Gerstenmaier Biography