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SPACE ALLIANCE TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH PROGRAM

**News release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## BAHEP presents NASA JSC Director Mike Coats its 2009 Quasar Award



*Shown from left are: Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership; Lon F. Miller, 2009 BAHEP chairman of the board and senior vice president/general manager, Jacobs Engineering; NASA Johnson Space Center Director Mike Coats; and Dr. Bernard A. Milstein, 2008 BAHEP chairman of the board and president of the Eye Clinic of Texas.*

by Pat Patton  
Born Wild – Innovative Promotions

**BAY AREA HOUSTON, Texas** -- The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership honored NASA Johnson Space Center Director Mike Coats at its sold-out Quasar Award Banquet on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009, at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center.

The Quasar Award is presented annually to an outstanding individual who has contributed greatly to economic wealth and diversity. The Quasar Award was presented to Coats in appreciation and acknowledgment of his many accomplishments as director of NASA Johnson Space Center over the last three years.

Dr. Bernard A. Milstein, BAHEP's 2008 chairman of the board and president of the Eye Clinic of Texas, reviewed his year as chairman, beginning with praise for Bob Mitchell's first year as president of the organization; he then presented the 2009 Quasar award to Coats.

Milstein said, "Mike Coats is the first astronaut to lead the Johnson Space Center in its 50-year history and is uniquely qualified to direct JSC as it transitions into becoming the center for three major programs: Space Shuttle, Space Station and Constellation. Mike's leadership ensures that jobs will continue to be recruited, expanded, retained and created in our region. His knowledge of JSC and the mission of NASA are critical to the expansion and development of human space exploration. He exemplifies the ideals embodied in the Quasar Award, and the membership of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is honored to recognize him for his vision and commitment."

Coats, who received an enthusiastic standing ovation, gave a very memorable and entertaining speech. Coats thanked BAHEP for its support of the manned space program and recognized others for his success. "I get a lot of credit for the work done by an amazing team of space professionals. I've been blessed with a rich and rewarding life; and, of course, the center of my universe is my family. I also feel fortunate to live in this community where a vast majority of the citizens feel a responsibility to get involved and make a difference."

Coats also said, "I very much appreciate this Quasar Award from the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, but, in fact, I merely represent the thousands of NASA civil servants and contractors who are leading our nation's space program into the second half century of discovery, innovation and exploration. This award belongs to each and every one of them."

Lon F. Miller, BAHEP's 2009 chairman of the board and senior vice president/general manager, Jacobs Engineering, said, "This year BAHEP celebrates its 33rd anniversary, and strategic, well thought out economic development efforts are perhaps more important now than they have ever been in our history."

Miller also said, "Mike Coats has tirelessly contributed to the technical base of the Bay Area. His incisive leadership and establishment of a collaborative environment at the Johnson Space Center have reinforced the Bay Area as the world's center for human space exploration. He is committed to excellence in human space flight and strengthening the economic base of our community. Mike Coats embodies the ideals inherent in the Quasar Award and the membership of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is honored to recognize him with this award."

Bob Mitchell, the organization's president, stated, "I believe that everyone who attended BAHEP's Quasar Award Banquet left the event with a truer appreciation of Mike Coats. During his acceptance speech, he paid tribute to those who have made human space flight possible. He also talked about the high priority he places on his family. Director Coats spoke of both with great pride and a bit of humor. Good candidates for the Quasar Award are those who exhibit extraordinary leadership, dedication, and achievement. Some, like Mike Coats, exhibit extraordinary character, as well. They are the great candidates who are so deserving of this prestigious award."

In addition to an outstanding video presentation by Marc Havican, president, Space City Films Inc., there were video clips of U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn congratulating Coats on receiving the Quasar Award.

Some of Coats' career highlights include being a U.S. Naval test pilot, a NASA astronaut, and being chosen to be the 10th director of the NASA Johnson Space Center in November 2005. He was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) in 2008, inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2007, and awarded the FAI Gold Space Medal in 2006. Coats is the recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 32 Strike Flight Air Medals, three individual Action Air Medals, nine Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V, three NASA Space Flight Medals, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, and the NASA Medal For Outstanding Leadership.

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**Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership** is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include over 260 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority. Visit [www.bayareahouston.com](http://www.bayareahouston.com).

**Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program** is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves. Visit [www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep](http://www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep).

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