FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Diane L. Thompson
+1 703.886.0020
dthompson@astronautical.org

American Astronautical Society Announces 2017 Ordway Award Winners

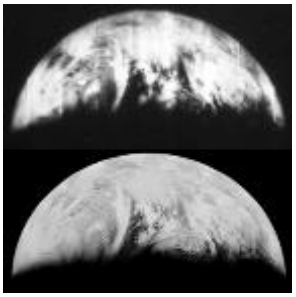
Three recipients are being recognized for exceptional efforts in the area of space history.

SPRINGFIELD, VA (September 14, 2017) – The American Astronautical Society (AAS) is pleased to announce Dr. David Baker, Mr. George S. James, and the Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project (LOIRP) have been selected to receive the society's Ordway Award for sustained excellence in spaceflight history.

Dr. David Baker is recognized for a sustained excellence in space coverage, through books and articles, as well as engagement in the early US space program. Dr. Baker joined the space program during Apollo and worked to develop advanced concepts for keeping astronauts on the moon for extended periods of time. Later, Dr. Baker worked on development of NASA's Space Shuttle and later, during the 1980s, to commercialize payloads and to integrate aerospace technologies in India and other Asian countries. Dr. Baker has written several hundred articles and more than 100 books on air and space histories, including *The Rocket* and *The History of Manned Spaceflight*. Dr. Baker appears regularly in electronic media and has been editor of A*erospace Review*, *Jane's Aircraft Upgrades* and *Jane's Space Directory*. He is a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society (BIS), where he chairs the BIS Publications Committee, serves as Editor of *Spaceflight* and oversees publication of the *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society*. In 1986 Dr. Baker was elected as a member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). He received the 1998 Rolls-Royce Award for Aerospace Journalist of the Year.

Mr. George S. James is recognized for sustained, active engagement in rocket research and related activities for over 70 years. Mr. James been active in the field of spaceflight, in many capacities, since 1943, when he founded the Glendale Research Society, which evolved into the Rocket Research Institute (RRI) Inc., in 1949. Trained in both engineering science and architecture, Mr. James includes study and work with the American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright before beginning work in the aerospace field. He worked at the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Laboratory (ABMA), at Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, Alabama as a member of Dr. Wernher von Braun's engineering liaison staff and assistant technical editor during the development of the Redstone Missile. Mr. James spent several decades at the Aerojet-General Corporation, as well as the Aerojet Liquid Rocket Company (1953-1971). Mr. James also held positions at the California Institute of Technology under Dr. Clark Milliken; at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory under Dr. Frank Malina and Dr. Howard Seifert; at the Aerojet Engineering Company Solid Propellant Division; and at the North American Aerophysics Laboratory. In 1971, Mr. James accepted the position of Program Coordinator at the National

Air and Space Museum. In 1986, he was elected as a Member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and later served as Chairman of the IAA History Committee. Mr. James has authored or co-authored well over 100 classified and unclassified technical papers.



The Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project (LOIRP) is recognized for sustained excellence in its work to preserve and process Lunar Orbiter imagery. LOIRP is a project established by Dennis Wingo and Keith Cowing and funded by several companies and individuals, with major support from NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SERVI), Science Mission Directorate (SMD) and Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD). The objective of the project was to digitize the original analog tapes (~1500) from the five (5) lunar orbiter spacecraft that visited the moon in 1966 and 1967. The LOIRP project site acquired the nickname "McMoons" due to its location in a former McDonald's near the NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field in California. Between 1966 and 1967 NASA sent five Lunar Orbiter spacecraft to the Moon. Images from these spacecraft were used by mission planners to select the Apollo landing sites on the moon. In the late 1960s, Lunar Orbiter analog tapes were placed in storage. In the mid-1980s, these tapes were transferred to JPL. Nancy Evans, co-founder of the NASA Planetary Data System (PDS), and Mark Nelson from Caltech, began a project to obtain surplus Ampex FR-900 tape drives, refurbish them, and digitize the analog data on the tapes. In 2007, LOIRP obtained the drives and tapes and began the digitization effort, which was completed in 2017. The image data was subsequently shared with PDS. Dennis Wingo currently oversees LOIRP activities and is planning a nationwide tour to exhibit LOIRP imagery and original Lunar Orbiter artifacts.

About the Award

The Ordway Award is named in memory of Frederick I. Ordway III (1927-2014), human spaceflight advocate and chronicler of the history of rocketry and space travel. The award recognizes exceptional, sustained efforts to inform and educate on spaceflight and its history through one or more media, such as (1) writing, editing, or publishing, (2) preparation and/or presentation of exhibits; or (3) production for distribution through film, television, art, or other non-print media. The award is managed by the History Committee of the AAS. **The awards will be presented on October 26, 2017 during the society's Wernher von Braun Memorial Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama.**

About AAS

The American Astronautical Society is the premier network of current and future space professionals dedicated to advancing all space activities. Founded in 1954, the AAS has long been recognized for the excellence of its national meetings, technical meetings, symposia and publications and for their impact on shaping the U.S. space program. Members have opportunities to meet with leaders in their field and in related disciplines, exchange information and ideas, discuss career aspirations and expand their knowledge and expertise.

# # #

6352 Rolling Mill Place, Suite 102, Springfield, Virginia 22152-2370
Tel: 703-866-0020 ♦ Fax: 703-866-3526
aas@astronautical.org ♦ www.astronautical.org