

Charles H. Hartman

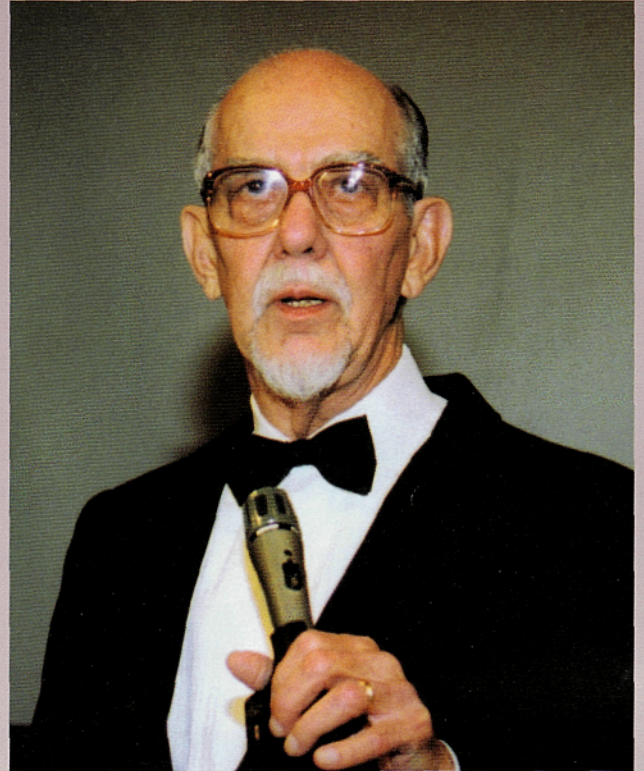
In Memorium

Charles Henry Hartman was one of the originating founders of the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA). His hard work and contributions over the years created this prestigious annual award that has recognized and honored some of the most inspirational leaders within the aerospace industry.

Mr. Hartman joined the United States Air Force in 1942, and for five years, served as a B-24 pilot in World War II. He piloted the first reconnaissance flight over Nagasaki, Japan following the dropping of the atomic bomb. After leaving the USAF in 1947, he launched a retail career and managed several men's clothing stores in Pasadena and Clear Lake City. Many years later, and desiring a change of pace, Mr. Hartman obtained his real estate license and became a commercial real estate broker. Through this position, he became deeply involved in the community, including an active member of the Space Center Rotary Club.

In 1986, Owen Morris had a desire to honor an individual who had made a significant contribution to the exploration of space. To bring his idea to fruition, he approached Mr. Hartman who took the idea and founded RNASA. As the original chairman of the board of directors, he oversaw the development of the nomination and selection criteria for this prestigious award. He also spearheaded the effort to find a firm that could design a one-of-a-kind award. The result is now the breathtaking National Space Trophy, a seven-foot-tall, conical lead crystal that weighs 500 pounds and is permanently displayed at Space Center Houston. Mr. Hartman held the position of chairman of the RNASA committee until 1997. He continued to participate in Rotary and RNASA in a volunteer capacity.

Mr. Hartman was married to his wife, Virginia, for 57 years. They had two sons, who are now grown with children of their own. Mr. Hartman passed away in 2001 at the age of 78.



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