



### **George W. S. Abbey**

Few people have had a bigger impact on human spaceflight than "Mr. Abbey."

He is currently Senior Fellow for Space Policy at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. As Director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston from 1996 to 2001, Mr. Abbey was in charge of NASA's Human Space Flight programs, including the space shuttle and International Space Station programs.

Mr. Abbey has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, NASA's Exceptional Service Medal, and NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal.

He joined NASA in 1967. His experiences include: Technical Assistant to the manager of the Apollo Program; Technical Assistant to the JSC Director during both the Skylab space station project in 1973 and the Apollo-Soyuz U.S.-Soviet space cooperative venture in 1975; Director of Flight Operations from 1976 to 1985; and Director of Flight Crew Operations until 1988, at which time he became Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight.

Mr. Abbey has also served on important planning and policy boards, such as the Synthesis Group, and was Senior Director for Civil Space Policy for the National Space Council, in the Executive Office of the President.

Before joining NASA, Mr. Abbey was a pilot and an officer in the United States Air Force.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy and a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.