

Astronaut Hall of Fame Inducts Brian Duffy and Scott Parazynski

By [Robert Z. Pearlman](#) May 17, 2016 [Spaceflight](#)



Veteran space shuttle astronauts Brian Duffy and Scott Parazynski were enshrined as the 92nd and 93rd members of the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame at NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida on Saturday, May 14, 2016.

(Image: © collectSPACE.com)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame inducted its 15th class of space shuttle veterans Saturday (May 14), adding a commander and a spacewalker to the institution's ranks.

[Brian Duffy and Scott Parazynski were honored](#) during a public ceremony at

NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida. Standing in front of an audience that included their families, friends, space program co-workers and past [Astronaut Hall of Fame inductees](#), the two men were celebrated under the retired space shuttle Atlantis, a spacecraft on which they both flew missions.

Over the course of their overlapping NASA careers, Duffy and Parazynski helped to advance research in Earth orbit, deployed satellites and contributed to the assembly of the International Space Station. [Building the International Space Station (Photos)]

"The new heights we've reached thanks to astronauts like Brian and Scott have become so engrained in our culture that we don't always think about just how incredible — how absolutely incredible — all that we have achieved actually is," said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, an astronaut and 2006 inductee. "One of the wonderful gifts of this Hall of Fame is it gives an opportunity to hit the pause button, to take a step back, take a deep breath for a moment and reflect on just how far we've really come."

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Out-of-the-limelight leader and true explorer

Between them, Brian Duffy, a veteran U.S. Air Force pilot, and Scott Parazynski, a medical doctor, [flew on board nine space shuttle missions](#) between 1992 and 2007.



2016 Astronaut Hall of Fame inductee Brian Duffy stands with the plaque that will represent him in the Hall at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida.

(Image: © collectSPACE.com)

Duffy was the commander two of his four flights, including the 100th space shuttle mission, STS-92, which delivered a docking port and installed a segment of the International Space Station's backbone truss.

"I call him an out-of-the-limelight leader," said Hall of Fame astronaut Kevin "Chili" Chilton, who flew with Duffy in the Air Force and presented him for induction. "An out-of-the-limelight person who pursues excellence, [and] an out-of-the-limelight person who does nothing but his duty, which he can never be asked to do more of, and always, always with good humor."

Parazynski conducted seven spacewalks over the course of his five shuttle missions. He flew with Mercury astronaut John Glenn on STS-95, helped to install [the Canadarm2 robotic arm](#) on the space station and repaired to a

tear in one of the orbiting outpost's solar arrays.

He was also [the first astronaut to summit Mount Everest](#), making Parazynski the only person to have both seen the world from orbit and stood on top of it.

"I have never seen a more vigorous adventure seeker than Scott Parazynski," said astronaut Kent Rominger, who flew with Parazynski on STS-100. "And so when I look at him amongst all of the astronauts I have been around, he truly represents an explorer."



Scott Parazynski poses next to his U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame plaque. The display features his portrait and space shuttle mission patches.

(Image: © collectSPACE.com)

Both Duffy and Parazynski said they were honored to join the ranks of the men and women they considered their role models.

"This is truly a humbling experience to be here joining my heroes," Duffy remarked. "These are the folks [who] as I was growing up, I watched do all these great things and I dreamed about what it might be like but never thought I'd have the chance. Joining you is a special treat for me."

More than 20 Hall of Fame astronauts attended the event to welcome the new inductees, including Apollo veterans Fred Haise, Al Worden and Charlie Duke, Skylab residents Owen Garriott and Jack Lousma, Apollo-Soyuz pilot Vance Brand and early shuttle fliers Bob Crippen, Robert "Hoot" Gibson and Rhea Seddon.

"There are so many emotions that flip through you as you stand here on a day like today," shared Parazynski. "I am standing in front of men and women who have been my inspiration since I was a little kid."

Plaque preview

Though now enshrined, Duffy and Parazynski will need to wait a bit longer to physically enter the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

The Hall's previous location in Titusville, Florida, [closed in October 2015](#) so that it could move to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

"Astronauts are such an important part of the NASA story. Through their eyes and stories we all have the chance to experience spaceflight as an insider. Soon their stories will be brought to life in an entirely new way," Therrin Protze, the chief operating officer of the visitor complex, said. "The [new] U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame will be a component of the [new 'Heroes and Legends' attraction](#) opening later this year."

"Through state of the art technology, guests will have the opportunity to virtually interact with the astronaut inductees and experience the thrills of

our space program like never before," he said.

At the close of Saturday's induction ceremony, Protze and Dan Brandenstein, chairman of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, revealed the plaques that will represent Duffy and Parazynski in the relocated Hall of Fame.

"I think it is fantastic," Parazynski said of his display. "The colors of the [space mission] patches are so high fidelity, I thought they really knocked it out of the park."

"It keeps you forever young," said Duffy of his likeness on the plaque. "I guess [that] is the way to look at it, because I may age a little bit but it's not going to."

Watch a [video of the 2016 Astronaut Hall of Fame](#) induction ceremony at collectSPACE.

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