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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL SPACE CLUB AND FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2025 GODDARD TROPHY RECIPIENT

Washington, DC: The National Space Club and Foundation (NSCF) is proud to announce that General Lester Lyles, USAF (Ret), has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the space community. General Lyles' distinguished career spans decades of visionary leadership, shaping the future of aerospace and national security.

Throughout his 35-year career in the U.S. Air Force, General Lyles held several pivotal positions, including Commander of the Space & Missile Systems Center, Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, and Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. His leadership was instrumental in advancing the military's space capabilities and transforming the Air Force's approach to aerospace defense. As Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, he spearheaded significant innovations in research, development, and acquisition, strengthening the nation's defense infrastructure.

Following his military service, General Lyles became a leading voice in national space policy and defense strategy. He has served on numerous advisory boards, including the President's U.S. Space Policy Commission, the Defense Science Board, and the NASA Advisory Council, where he helped shape the agency's long-term vision. His expertise has guided efforts to elevate space security and foster innovation through roles with the National Space Council's Users' Advisory Group and the President's Intelligence Advisory Board.

In 2009, General Lyles served on the Augustine Committee, where he played a pivotal role in developing the agenda for NASA's Human Space Flight missions. That same year, he chaired the National Research Council's landmark study, Roles and Rationale Study

of the U.S. Civil Space Programs. His expertise led to appointments on the Defense Science Board from 2009 to 2016 and the President's Intelligence Advisory Board from 2009 to 2013. In 2011, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, later serving as Chair of its Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board from 2012 to 2016. From 2016 to 2021, and again in 2021, he served as Chair of the NASA Advisory Council, guiding critical decisions for the agency. His contributions extended to the State Department's International Security Advisory Board (2013–2017) and the Users' Advisory Group of the National Space Council (2018–2020).

General Lyles' contributions have been widely recognized. His military honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the General Thomas D. White Award for distinguished service in national security. Among his civilian honors, he was named Astronautics Engineer of the Year by the National Space Club (1990), received the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award (1994), and was honored as Black Engineer of the Year/Lifetime Achievement (2003). In 2022, he was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Beyond his professional achievements, General Lyles remains committed to advancing aerospace innovation and education. He serves as Chairman of the Board for KBR and the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) and supports numerous non-profits, including the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Please join us in celebrating General Lyles' remarkable legacy and his profound impact on the future of space exploration.

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The National Space Club and Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to fostering excellence in space activity through interaction between industry and government, and through a continuing program of educational support. Youth Education is a premier focus of the Club, providing over \$160,000 in scholarships and internships each year. Awards are offered to recognize outstanding accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management, and education.

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