

Richard H. Truly

Retired as a vice admiral after a Navy career of 30 years, Richard H. Truly began his naval career in 1959 following his graduation from Georgia Institute of Technology. After distinguished service as a naval aviator, in 1965 Admiral Truly became one of the first military astronauts, transferring to NASA as an astronaut in 1969. Among his accomplishments as an astronaut, he piloted the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, the first piloted spacecraft to be reflown in space, and was commander of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* for the first night launch and landing in the shuttle program. In 1983 Admiral Truly became the first commander of the Naval Space Command, the principal naval space operations element of the Department of Defense.

Called back to NASA as Associate Administrator for Space Flight, Admiral Truly led the accident investigation and rebuilding of the space shuttle program following the *Challenger* accident. From 1989 to 1992 Admiral Truly served as NASA's eighth Administrator under President George H. W. Bush.

After leaving NASA, from 1992 to 1997 Admiral Truly served as Vice President of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute. From 1997 to 2005 he served as the director of the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the nation's premier laboratory for renewable energy research, development and deployment.

Admiral Truly, who received his bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He received an honorary doctorate of engineering from Colorado School of Mines in 2002.

In addition to numerous professional awards, recognitions from NASA and his many military decorations, Admiral Truly was awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal by President Ronald Reagan.

Admiral Truly currently serves on the Board of Directors of Xcel Energy, Tetra Tech and Edenspace Systems Corporation. He is a Trustee of Regis University and the University Corporation for Atmosphere Research (UCAR). He previously served on the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Admiral Truly was appointed to the Colorado School of Mines Board of Trustees on March 8, 2010 to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Michael S. Nyikos, through December 31, 2010. He was reappointed to the Board in November 2010 for a four year term ending December 31, 2014.

Contact information:

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