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FORMER NASA ADMINISTRATOR & ASTRONAUT RICHARD H. TRULY CHOSEN TO DIRECT THE GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

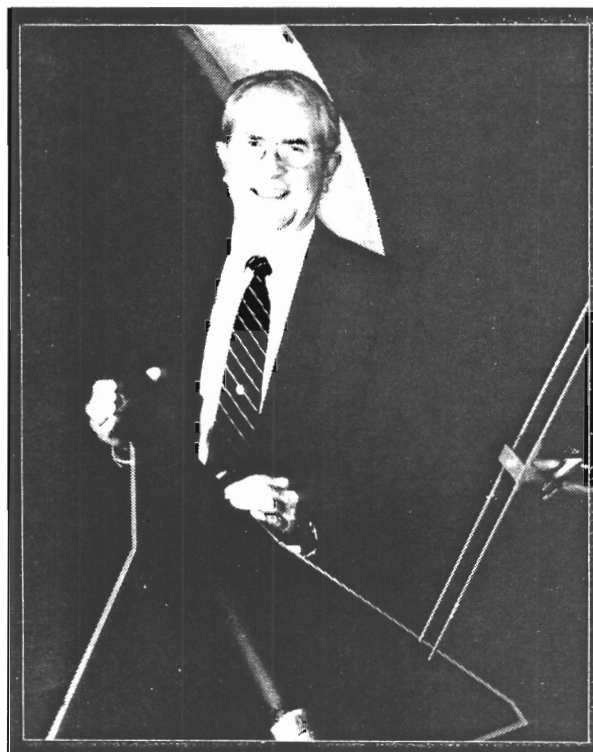
Former NASA Administrator Richard H. Truly, the first astronaut to head the U.S. space agency, has been appointed director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

Truly will succeed Donald J. Grace, who is retiring after leading the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) through a 16-year period of growth. With annual research revenues of nearly \$100 million, GTRI is one of the nation's leading nonprofit applied research organizations. It is part of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to come back to Georgia Tech," said Truly, who graduated from Georgia Tech in 1959 with a degree in aeronautical engineering. "Georgia Tech is a great engineering school and GTRI is a well-known research organization that has important roles to play in several areas, including national defense, civilian technology and the competitiveness of Georgia business."

Georgia Tech President John Patrick Crecine praised Truly's professional accomplishments and leadership abilities.

"Admiral Truly brings a wealth of leadership experience in an organization that



Admiral Richard H. Truly, chosen to be the new director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute, poses with an aircraft model being tested in a Georgia Tech wind tunnel. (Color/B&W Available)

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emphasizes scientific and engineering research and development, with an extraordinary concern for developing technologies that have commercial and civilian uses as well as scientific, military and space-related merit," Crecine said.

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"Dick Truly is a man who has exhibited humanity, calm, and decency in the high pressure world of the federal government," he added. "He represents exactly the kind of seasoned leadership we need for GTRI and Georgia Tech research."

Truly's appointment as vice president of the Georgia Institute of Technology and director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute was approved November 11 by the University System Board of Regents, which administers Georgia's system of publicly-supported colleges and universities. He is expected to start work December 1.

As Associate Administrator of NASA's Office of Space Flight from 1986 to 1989, Truly led the space agency's recovery and return to space flight following the Challenger tragedy. He served as administrator of the \$14-billion-a-year agency from April 1989 through March 1992.

Truly began his career as a Navy fighter pilot, and served the U.S. Air Force's Manned Orbital Laboratory Program before joining NASA in 1969. As an astronaut, he commanded two Space Shuttle flights, participated in early Shuttle testing, and was capsule communicator for earlier NASA space programs including Skylab and the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission. He retired from the Navy as a vice admiral.

Truly said Georgia Tech's role in developing the technology of the future was what drew him to this new position.

"Georgia Tech is changing and looking toward the future, and that is attractive to me," he explained. "This country was built on the tradition of investing in the future, which is why we have a space program and why we have poured so much research into technologies that either defend us or help us have better lives."

Though funding for research organizations has been uncertain in recent years, Truly believes the nation will continue to make the investments needed to help its industries remain competitive in the world economy.

"Universities have a strong role to play in the competitiveness of industries," he added. "You must stay on the cutting edge, because other people and other countries will develop the technology."

He cited the commercial aircraft industry and the future High-Speed Civil Transport aircraft as examples of areas where the United States should maintain a leadership role.

"Every projection that I have seen suggests that when the High-Speed Civil Transport is built, it will take the top off the long-range commercial airplane market," he warned. "If we don't do the research needed to build it, the Europeans and Japanese will."

With nearly 650 research professionals, the Georgia Tech Research Institute conducts research and development work in aerospace sciences and technology, acoustics, microelectronics and applications, infrared and electro-optics technology, communications and information processing, simulation systems, radar, electronic defense, electromagnetic environmental effects, economic development and technical assistance, manufacturing technology and environmental sciences.

GTRI was organized in 1934 as the Engineering Experiment Station to assist Georgia businesses, and today conducts research for U.S. Department of Defense agencies, other federal departments, corporate sponsors and state agencies.

Donald J. Grace, who has served as GTRI's director since 1976, announced plans for retirement earlier this year. Before becoming GTRI director, he held a similar position at the University of Hawaii and served as associate dean of engineering, associate professor of electrical engineering and senior research associate at Stanford University.

Grace has also held a number of research and management positions in private industry.

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