# The Alleron

September, 2023

Official Publication of the Aero Club of Southern California

### LAURANS A. MENDELSON

44th Howard Hughes Memorial Award Winner

aurans A. Mendelson is the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of New York Stock Exchange-listed HEICO Corporation. Florida-based HEICO was cited as one of the 100 Best Small Companies by Forbes Magazine in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. In 2016, Forbes cited HEICO as one of America's 100 Most Trustworthy Companies and in 2015 as one of the Most Innovative Growth Companies.

In 2006 HEICO was recipient of the South Florida Good to Great Award for the large company category. In 2012 HEICO was the recipient of the Beacon Council Aviation Award, the ACG South Florida Award for Outstanding Corporate Growth and the American Dreamer Award from the Hispanic Unity of Florida. In January 2017, the highly-regarded Institutional Investor magazine ("II") named HEICO to its All-America Executive Team and named Laurans A. Mendelson, HEICO's Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, the best CEO in Aerospace & Defense Electronics sector.

On July 14, 2017, Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republique Francaise, named Laurans A. Mendelson, a "Chevalier" in the French Legion of Honor. On March 3, 2018, HEICO Corporation and the Mendelson Family were the recipients of the Henry M. Flagler Award from the History Miami Museum. On December 11, 2018, the Mendelson Family was the recipient of the AJC National Human Relations Award.

In 2021, Florida Trend Magazine named Mr. Laurans Mendelson a living legend and one of Florida's most influential business leaders. On April 24, 2022, the United Way of Miami honored the Mendelson Family with the Tocqueville Award for outstanding philanthropy.

Mr. Mendelson was named as one of the Top 100 Business Leaders by the South Florida Business Journal in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. He is Trustee Emeritus of Columbia University in the City of New York and was awarded the John Jay Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement by Columbia College in the City of New York. He is also the recipient of the Wright Brothers Award, which is the Greater Miami Aviation Association's premier award presented to individuals whose substantial and lifelong contributions to the aviation industry reflect extraordinarily on the aviation community.



He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Aerospace Industries Association in Washington, D.C.; past Chairman of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Executive Committee and the Society of Mount Sinai Founders of Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Miami Beach. He received the Greater Hollywood (Florida) Chamber of Commerce 1998 Private Sector Community Service Award; and

is a recipient of the 1999 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He has also been a distinguished guest lecturer in The Executive Forum of the MBA Program at Florida Atlantic University, College of Business. On December 9, 2018, he was the commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony of the Florida International University College of Engineering.

Mr. Mendelson received his AB degree from Columbia College in the City of New York in 1960, and his MBA degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Business in 1961. HEICO Corporation is used as a business case study at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business.

Congratulations Laurans A. Mendelson, thank you and HEICO for your contributions to aviation and aerospace!



### Larry Mendelson,

the 2023 recipient of the

44th Howard Hughes Memorial Award,
for his dedication and contributions
to the aerospace industry.

We are proud of his achievements, and are grateful for his leadership.



HEICO

www.**HEICO**.com





nation's first space walker, Joe Kittinger, are displayed here tonight. He won the Gordon Bennett Balloon Races four times and was permanently awarded the trophy for the third win. Colonel Kittinger passed away recently in December 2022.

Board Member Robert C. Ettinger, Colonel, USAF (Ret.) recently hosted an Edwards Air Force Base tour. Club members had an interesting and enjoyable adventure and look forward to future opportunities.

Thank you, Aero Club Board of Directors, Executive Officers, and Committee Directors for hours of volunteer work bettering this great organization.

The Aero Club is financially solid and able to support important programs into the future. This is your club; we need your involvement and ideas to improve everyone's experience. If you are not a current member, please consider becoming a member and joining us in our ongoing support of Aviation and Aerospace.

And finally, as 2023 comes to a close, I am stepping down as President. It was been such an honor to be associated with our club members and those that I have met because of the club. In my 60 years as a pilot and aviation enthusiast, I've met interesting and influential individuals. It has been a pleasure to know all of them, to learn from them and to hopefully, because of them, make this world, a better place to live and enjoy.

Thank you all,

Seage of Butter

George Butts President

The Aero Club of Southern California is the oldest aero club west of the Mississippi, promoting and supporting Aviation and Aerospace advancement since its inception in 1908. Last year, we recognized Harrison Ford for his volunteer and humanitarian efforts, including serving as Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles program chairman for five years and volunteering as a search and rescue helicopter pilot.

This year Laurans 'Larry' Mendelson is receiving the 44th Howard Hughes Memorial Award for his company HEICO's efforts to provide less expensive aerospace and aviation aftermarket.

The Howard Hughes Memorial Award medallion is a beautiful work of art, rich in Howard Hughes and Hughes family history. The award was created by sculptor Josef Princiotta. The original wax molds were recently acquired from Josef and are displayed at the Flight Path Museum and Learning Center.

The Aero Club is proud to present the inaugural Howard Hughes Memorial Discovery Award to the James Webb Space Telescope team. JWST continues to redefine what 'Discovery' is!

Our 2022 Annual Membership Meeting and Scholarship Awards Presentation was held in November at the Flight Path Museum and Learning Center. We awarded college and high school students \$40,000 in scholarships to pursue their careers in aerospace and aviation.

New corporate sponsorship levels were created resulting in increased scholarship funding. We are grateful for our new corporate development director's efforts.

Last year I shared the Aero Club's history with the Gordon Bennett Balloon Races. The trophy and history of our

# The Alleron

#### **TONIGHT'S PROGRAM**

Welcome

Suzanne Fuentes HHMA Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Zabalaoui
Board Member

Introduction

George Butts
President

DINNER

AERO CLUB HISTORY

George Butts
President

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM *Julie Sims* 

Scholarship Program Director

Howard Hughes Memorial Discovery Award Presentation

Jeffrey Grant

Space Foundation Chairman

George Butts

President

RESPONSE

Mike Menzel

NASA JWST Mission Systems Engineer

Robby Swoish

NGC JWST Operations and Maintenance Program Manager

Howard Hughes Memorial Award Presentation

Stephen Perry

Corporate Development Director

George Butts

President

RESPONSE

Laurans 'Larry' Mendelson

HEICO CEO/Chairman

CLOSING REMARKS
George Butts

#### THANK YOU

Laurans Mendelson, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Northrop Grumman Corporation Chevron, El Segundo Chamber of Commerce and Lily Craig Our California Club Host William Shaw, Bell Event Services Michael J. Bell,

The California Club *Philippa Gutridge*, Photographer *Jesse and Michelle Brunt*GS Financials, *Gwen Sanders CPA*, Studio Printing *Ed Su* 



#### Aero Club Leadership

George Butts

President, Membership Chair

Patrick Carey Vice President

Arthur W. McAllister
Treasurer

David Zabalaoui Communications Director Stephen Perry

Corporate Development Director

Joanna Speed Events Director

Suzanne Fuentes HHMA Director Julie Sims

Scholarships Director

Ryann Willis Historian

Robert E. Lyon ACSC General Counsel

William C. Withycombe Past President

**Board Members** 

Christopher Celtruda Grant Firestone

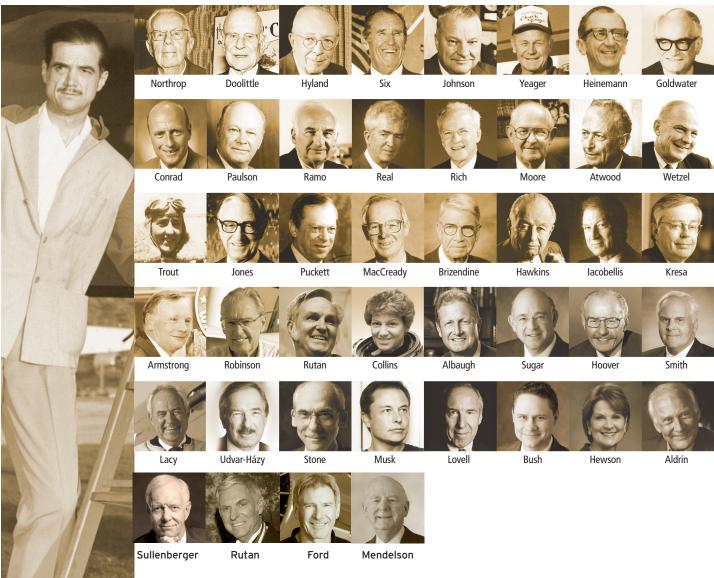
Penelope Cornwall Thomas Heinsheimer

Ramona Cox Carol Marinello

Robert Ettinger Raymond Wolfe



### The Howard Hughes Memorial Award



The Howard Hughes Memorial Award, created in 1978, is presented annually by the Aero Club of Southern California to an aerospace leader whose accomplishments over a long career have contributed significantly to the advancement of aviation or space technology. The Award was a tribute to Hughes by his first cousin William R. Lummis, chairman and CEO of Summa Corporation.

The 44 recipients, who are pictured above, are a veritable "hall of fame" of industry achievers and luminaries.

The permanent trophy, housed in the Flight Path Learning Center & Museum at LAX, is a globe and vehicle sculpture with the names of recipients

engraved on its base. A solid silver medallion, cast from silver from Hughes' Nevada mines, is presented to each Honoree. It depicts Hughes from the era when he was designing and flying his famed Flying Boat, setting world records, dressed in his familiar brown fedora, open shirt and two-toned sports jacket. The reverse side signifies aspects of Hughes' varied life—the oil drilling bit, a reel of film, a landing falcon, the state of Nevada, the earth with a circle of stars symbolizing his round-the-world record, the first communications satellite and the Flying Boat as it crested the waves of Long Beach Harbor.



## **DONORS, SPONSORS AND MEMBERS**

#### 2022 SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Gary Burdorf, Helicopter Technology Company *High School Scholarship* 

Henry and Paulette Matson Higher Education Scholarship

#### 2022 Donors

Aleta and Doug Pottenger

#### PREMIER TABLE SPONSORS

HEICO Loar Group Northrop Grumman Corporation Valence Surface Technologies

#### TABLE SPONSORS

Chevron Products
Helicopter Technology Company
Janes Capital Partners
Valence Surface Technologies
David Zabalaoui

#### LIFETIME CORPORATE SPONSOR

**HEICO** 

#### PLATINUM SPONSORS

Helicopter Technology Company Loar Group Henry and Paulette Matson

#### GOLD SPONSORS

Ducommun Eaton

#### SILVER SPONSORS

Janes Capital Partners Moss Adams

#### LIFETIME MEMBERS

Robert Acherman

Thomas Anthony Michael Barr Pennie Burnham George Butts Anthony Byrnes J. Bruce Camino Patrick Carev Christine Caruso Christopher Celtruda Robert DeLaurentis Suzanne Fuentes Ruth Garcia Karen Gerharter-Goodman Philip Goodman Brad Guske Stayce Harris Agnes Huff Petros Kitsos Joshua Lang Alvin Leung Dennis Lord Robert E. Lyon Arthur W. McAllister Mark McCov Laurans 'Larry' A. Mendelson Stephen Perry Mark Pestana Judith Quinlan John Rosso Mark Schlig William Scott, Jr. William Shaw Marcie Simpson

Julie Sims

Joanna Speed Adam Sturdivant Robert Suppelsa, Sr.

Suzanne Suppelsa Ryann Willis

Thomas Winship

David Zabalaoui

William C. Withycombe

### LIFETIME CORPORATE MEMBERS

AllClear Aerospace & Defense Northrop Grumman Corporation Valence Surface Technologies

#### CORPORATE MEMBERS

Aeroplex Group Partners Los Angeles World Airports PacMin, Inc Saudi Arabian Airlines

#### NON-PROFIT MEMBERS

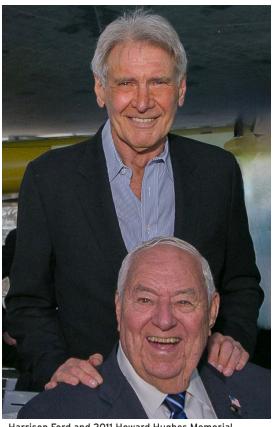
American Heroes Aviation Network Flight Path Museum and Learning Center Flight Test Museum Foundation Flying Thru Life Southern California Rotorcraft Association Western Museum of Flight Women In Defense / Greater L. A.



# Harrison Ford Awarded 43rd Howard Hughes Memorial Award



Aero Club President George Butts and 2022 Howard Hughes Memorial Award Honoree Harrison Ford standing behind the Howard Hughes Memorial Award trophy



Harrison Ford and 2011 Howard Hughes Memorial Award Clay Lacy

umanitarian Pilot and actor Harrison Ford was honored at the 43rd Howard Hughes Memorial Award ceremony on June 10, 2022.

Three hundred participants attended the gala held under the Orbiter Endeavour at the California Science Center. During the cocktail hour, Harrison graciously greeted and took photos with many in the sold-out crowd.

The award ceremony began with a beautiful video commissioned by the Aero Club filmed in Harrison's aircraft hangar showing his fixed wing and rotor aircraft. Vice President Patrick Carey's introduction was a tribute to all the pilots and their significant others

in the audience culminating in a standing ovation for Harrison.

Aero Club President George Butts presented Harrison Ford with the silver Howard Hughes Memorial Award medallion. As part of his acceptance remarks, Harrison answered questions from the audience and shared he was humbled and honored to have his name listed with the previous 42 honorees. He stressed his achievements were shared with many, and not his alone.

Mr. Ford is a true gentleman, we wished him continued success!

# The Alleron

# James Webb Space Telescope



Credits: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, Klaus Pontoppidan (STScI)

**NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (Webb)** has been making history since its launch on December 25, 2021. It is the largest and most powerful space telescope built to date, operating at infrared wavelengths allowing it to peer through interstellar dust and provide unprecedented insights into the formation of stars, planets, and even some of the first galaxies.

The Webb Telescope is the product of a two-decade collaboration between NASA, key industry partners, academia, and international space agencies, a collaboration on this scale has not occurred for NASA since Apollo astronauts put the first boot prints on the moon. Like Apollo, engineers, and scientists around the globe faced unprecedented challenges and developed trailblazing solutions including Webb's revolutionary sunshield.

Webb's world-class engineering and development team included:

#### NASA Centers:

- Goddard Space Flight Center (Project Leader and select hardware)
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory (Mid-Infrared Instrument project leadership)
- Ames Research Center (Detector technology)
- Johnson Space Center (Environmental test facilities)
- Marshall Space Flight Center (Mirror technology and environmental research)
- Glenn Research Center (Cryogenic component development)

#### • INDUSTRY:

 Northrop Grumman (Industry lead, system design, spacecraft, sunshield, & system integration & test)



- Ball Aerospace (Mirror design and fabrication)
- Lockheed Martin (Near Infrared Camera)
- L3Harris (Optical Telescope Element & Integrated Science Instrument Module integration and test)

#### • ACADEMIA:

- The Space Telescope Science Institute (Mission Planning & Operations, Webb Instrument characterization and optimization)
- University of Arizona (Near Infrared Camera design)

#### • INTERNATIONAL:

- European Space Agency (Near Infrared Spectrograph, Mid Infrared Optics Assembly, and Ariane launch vehicle and services)
- Canadian Space Agency (Fine Guidance Sensor & Near Infrared Imager and Slitless Spectrograph)

The Webb team faced tremendous challenges and overcame them with unprecedented innovation. The telescope is over 69 feet long and 46 feet tall, operates in the infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum at 1,000,000 miles from Earth, and cannot be serviced by astronauts. The team solved unique technological challenges related to observatory deployments on a grand scale, cryogenic operations, mission execution at four times the distance to the moon, and a myriad of potential single point failures that would render the telescope inoperable.

#### **WEBB'S SCIENCE RETURN:**

The team's extraordinary efforts paid off! Since launch, the telescope has made countless groundbreaking observations, including star and planet formation, the oldest known super-massive black hole, the farthest galaxy seen to date and molecules in exoplanets that could indicate the building blocks of life.

The universe as we knew it will never be the same – Congratulations James Webb Space Telescope Team!





# Aero Club of Southern California Awards \$40,000 in STEM Scholarships to Seven High School and College Recipients!

205 students received Aero Club scholarships over the past 42 years,.



Owen Colombo and friends.

A ero Club's Annual Meeting and Scholarship Awards Banquet was held in person at Flight Path Museum & Learning Center on November 11, 2022.

The Scholarship Program Committee, led by Director Julie Sims, awarded \$40,000 to seven students selected for their academic achievements in aviation and aerospace related activities.

In 2022, Henry and Paulette Matson, and Gary Burdorf, President of Helicopter Technology Company, generously donated to the Aero Club's Scholarship fund providing additional scholarship funds. We are grateful to them!



Scholarship donors Henry and Paulette Matson

#### \$4000 High School Scholarship Recipient

*Alex Dawson -* Marsha Toy Scholarship

#### \$6000 College Scholarship Recipients

Loren Newton - John Durant Scholarship

Gabriel Ramirez - Jack Real Scholarship

Owen Colombo - Nissen Davis Scholarship

Mary Cooper - Henry and Paulette Matson Scholarship

Robert Suppelsa - Gary Burdorf Scholarship

Calvin Paras - William Schoneberger Scholarship





Alexander Dawson and father.



Gabriel Ramirez and parents.





Scholarship donor Gary Burdorf



Robert Suppelsa and parents, and friend.



Julie Sims, Loren Newton and Father.

Julie Sims, Lily Craig, and President George Butts accepting on behalf of Mary Cooper.

# The Alleron -

# **Aero Club History Committee**



Jack Maddux with Lt. Tommy Tomlinson, champion flyer, high-altitude test pilot, and Navy ace - led the "Three Sea Hawks," the Navy's first aerobatic team



Maddux Airlines Inaugural Flight Co-Pilots Will Rogers and Charles Lindbergh with Jack Maddux on September 22, 1927, at Mines Field, Los Angeles

The Aero Club History Committee, is currently being stood up by Board Member Ryann Willis. Ms. Willis is experienced in preserving aviation documentation. Her grandmother, was married to Jack Maddux, founder of Maddux Airlines. His incredible collection of aviation pictures and documents from the 1920s was discovered when Mrs. Maddux-Willis died at age 99. The entire collection was saved from destruction at the last minute when a relative retrieved it from trash bins.

In addition to her personal experience of almost losing the Maddux historical documents, Ms. Willis recently assisted an aviation enthusiast in transitioning into an assisted care facility and wanting to preserve her irreplaceable collection of aviation materials. The collector connected to the Aero Club through her association with a board member. Ryann helped the collector organize and donate her superb collection.

Some individuals unwittingly dispose of historical

documents, pictures, and memorabilia. In this age of digital documentation, they do not understand their importance or know where to get information about preserving, sharing, or donating aviation materials.

The Aero Club is creating a "Care and Share" initiative to assist these individuals with preserving and disseminating aviation records and images. A FAQ or digital 'help desk' will be created to identify reputable donation repositories.

The Club intends to digitalize its archives making them publicly available via our website. It is interested in an interconnected network of aviation resource websites creating a free, universally accessible internet-based historical aviation library.

The History Committee welcomes volunteers to assist and/or fund this effort. Please visit aeroclubsocal.org for more information or to donate.



# The Aero Club bids farewell to two beloved Emeritus Board of Director Members



A thirty year Aero Club member, Jack Norris forgot more than most of us will ever learn.

Jack's interest in flying began as a young boy building model airplanes in Ohio. After college, he entered the United States Air Force and the real story began. Jack was instrumental in the development of the F-100 series of aircraft.

His company developed

the flight control systems for the Boeing 727, which provided the basis for the Boeing 747. He worked directly with Walt Disney to design the original animatronics for Abe Lincoln and the Pirates of the Caribbean rides at Disneyland.

Jack's company designed the valves and regulators that safely fed the fuels and oxidizers on the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space rocket engines.

Jack was the Technical Director, Mission Control, of the Voyager's non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeanne Yeager.

He researched and published a double book on "Logic of Flight" and "Propellers, the First and Final Explanation". Over 107 items Jack was involved in now reside in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington D. C. More than any other individual or company.

Jack's passion for flight, was always evident as a member of the Aero Club. He took great pride in working with our scholarship winners assisting youth achieve their Aviation and Aerospace dreams. We were fortunate to videotape a delightful interview with Jack a few years ago. The video is available at aeroclubsocal.org.



Charlie May was an Aero Club member for twenty years and a Board member longer than anyone can remember.

Charlie's passion for flight began at age 8 with a ride in a Ford Tri-Motor. After graduating high school in Indiana, he took a job with Bell Aircraft in Buffalo,

N.Y. In 1943 he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps and was a pilot until he attended Purdue University in 1945. After graduation, his new job with Allison Division of General Motors brought Charlie and his wife to Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California.

He worked at Airsupply, Air Research, Garrett Corporation, Purolator Inc. Aerospace Division, Systems Capital Technology Corporation, HTL Industries, Goulton Inc., Fleet Aerospace Corporation, Mass Systems, Ameron Global Inc., and lastly, as an owner and consultant of C.D. May and Associates.

Charlie was passionate about engaging young people, challenging the membership chair to recruit young members to assure the Aero Club's growth and mission.

Godspeed Jack and Charlie, we are a better club because of your dedication. Your memories will always be a blessing.



# Congratulates

# Laurans A. Mendelson

for being honored with the
44th Annual Howard Hughes Memorial Award



# Congratulations Laurans A. Mendelson

for being honored with the 44th Annual Howard Hughes Memorial Award

## James Webb Space Telescope Team

for being honored with the Howard Hughes Memorial Discovery Award

Henry and Paulette Matson





### Helicopter Technology Company (HTC)

### "We're a lot more than Helicopter Rotor Blades"



#### **Helicopter Technology Company (HTC)**

12902 South Broadway
Los Angeles, California 90061 USA
(310) 523-2750 Voice
(310) 523-2745 FAX
www.helicoptertech.com

Visit our Website for Technical Publications including: Maintenance Manuals, STC's, MDL's, and Quality Certifications

About Helicopter Technology Company (HTC): HTC designs and produces its own line of Helicopter Main and Tail Rotor Blades at its Facilities in Los Angeles, California. The company is an FAA Approved Production Approval Holder (PQ2115NM-D), FAA Part 145 Repair Station (HQPR671X), and EASA Approved Repair Station (EASA.145.6708) with ISO 9001:2015 + AS9100D and ISO 9001:2015 + AS9110C Certifications. Company Strengths include: Structural Design, Structural Testing, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), Tool Design and Fabrication, Metal-to-Metal Bonding, Structural Assembly, and Flight Testing. HTC was formed in 1994 and has Rotor Blades in Service in more than 55 countries around the world.



# A FAMILY OF COMPANIES Specializing in Niche Aerospace and Defense Components



www.loargroup.com • info@loargroup.com





# Congratulates



#### **LARRY MENDELSON**

Chairman & CEO, HEICO Corporation

- PROUD RECIPIENT OF THE -

2023 Howard Hughes Memorial Award

janescapital.com

# Proud supporter and the official printer of the Aero Club.



1750 E. Holly Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245 310-333-8989 • www.studioprinting.net





#### Markets Served

Commercial Aviation
Defense- Fixed Wing and Rotary
Defense- Missile and Weapons
Space- Launch and Satellite
Business Jet
Engine and Landing Gear
Medical
Oil and Gas



#### Services offered





Non-Destructive Testing



Paint and Spray Coatings



Chemical Processing
Conversion Coatings and Anodize



**Plating** 



### The Worlds Leading Aerospace Product Finishing Company

### Uncompromising QUALITY, Unmatched DELIVERY, Unparalleled PERFORMANCE.

With eleven centers of excellence strategically located across North America, Valence serves the global supply chain with the most comprehensive set of processing capabilities and approvals for high value, mission critical parts. From the smallest part to a large aerostructure assembly, Valence Surface Technologies is your one stop shop in the supply chain for metal finishing.

Valence is Nadcap, AS9100, and ITAR certified.





Bringing the universe into focus. That's Defining Possible. ngc.com NORTHROP GRUMMAN © 2023 Northrop Grumman Credits: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, Klaus Pontoppidan (STScI) Image Processing: Alyssa Pagan (STScI)