

For Immediate Release

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Two Space Pioneers United with Science Center Name Change

CONCORD, NH – With a stroke of his pen, Governor John H. Lynch brought together two noted space pioneers from New Hampshire, in a ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 77. By changing the name of New England's newest science center to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, the bill unites the former Christa McAuliffe Planetarium and its new center into one organization dedicated to two of New Hampshire's most renowned citizens - Alan Shepard, America's first astronaut and one of only 12 people to walk on the Moon, and Christa McAuliffe, who was chosen out of over 11,000 applicants to be NASA's first Teacher in Space.

Discovery Center Executive Director, Jeanne Gerulskis expressed delight at the center's new name. "Christa McAuliffe's mother told me that Alan Shepard was Christa's hero, that he inspired her to travel beyond Earth's limits," Gerulskis noted. "Now these two brave explorers can inspire new generations of young people to reach for the stars."

On hand for the signing were bill sponsors Representatives Candace White-Bouchard and Jessie Osborne, Discovery Center Commissioners Dr. Toni Galvin, Bill Lambrukos, Erle Pierce, and Representative Bill Remick, Discovery Center Executive Director Jeanne Gerulskis and staff members Gina Bowler, Jennifer Jones, David McDonald, Sandt Michener, and Kathleen Regan.

The new McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is an air and space science center, featuring 21st century interactive exhibits on aviation, astronomy, and Earth and space sciences, a state-of-the-art planetarium, and a variety of science and engineering programs.

The engaging, robust educational programs are geared towards families, teens, seniors, students, community groups, and lifelong learners. For a full schedule of programming, visit www.starhop.com.

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