

Message from Dave Scott to John Hodge

"In October 1963 I was fortunate to be chosen by NASA to become an astronaut. Over the next eight years my life would be filled with extraordinary events and adventures including a trip to the moon. However, it was during my first space flight, in March of 1966 that I had a close call with the problems and risks of space flight. I shared that mission with Neil Armstrong aboard our spacecraft, Gemini 8. Our primary task was to perform the first ever docking in space, with an Agena Target vehicle, an unmanned spacecraft. The flight controller in Houston for our mission was John Hodge. Shortly after docking with the Agena, the spacecraft began to roll uncontrollably. We discovered later that the thrusters were stuck. It could have been a fatal problem. However, thanks to our own efforts and the calm resolve of the team in Houston, led by John Hodge, we managed to come home safely. John was one of the key people in Mission Control during the space race. Sometimes people forget that it wasn't just the pilots who had the right stuff. Congratulations John on your Canadian Air & Space Pioneer award."