

**REMARKS FOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR GARVER  
SHUTTLE DISCOVERY ARRIVAL  
April 17, 2012**

- Good morning and welcome to the last flight of Discovery.
- General Dailey...Secretary Lahood, Jackie Bolden, Janet Kavandi....and honored guests.
- I want to thank the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority for hosting us this morning and making arrangements for NASA to fly our Shuttle Carrier Aircraft and the space shuttle Discovery into the D.C. area today. This is an example of great government cooperation.
- I also want to thank the crew of the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft: Jeff Moultrie was the commander of the flight and later will pilot Enterprise's flight to New York. Bill Rieke piloted the plane from the Kennedy Space Center – how did the city look this morning? Were there a few people outside? Thanks to flight engineers Henry Taylor and Larry Larose and Arthur "Ace" Beall was the weather pilot. Thank you for bringing this National Treasure to its new home.
- Discovery was the longest-serving veteran of NASA's space shuttle fleet. Her maiden voyage was in 1984. She flew 39 missions, spent 365 days in space, orbited Earth 5,830 times and traveled 148,221,675 miles.
- As soon as her wheels rest on the runway here, she will leave our NASA service and join the great national collection at the National Air and Space Museum where she will continue her mission to educate and inspire a grateful nation.
- The Space Shuttle's 30-year history literally changed the world – for the better. In their early years launching critical communications satellites (and sometimes servicing them) and military payloads that kept our service men and women safe overseas.
- Discovery launched and serviced dozens of Earth and space science spacecraft that allowed us to peer into the universe and look back at our home planet.
- Their greatest accomplishment and purpose – now complete – was the launch and construction of the ISS – our science laboratory in space and our foothold to the rest of the solar system.
- Like all great accomplishments, these achievements have come at a cost. When we lost the Challenger and Columbia flights and their brave crews, we re-dedicated ourselves to an even more meaningful and exciting future.

- Today, NASA is following through on this commitment by building on the successes of the past and learning from our failures.
- President Obama has set us on a course that will tap into the innovative spirit that has made this nation great.
- It will allow us to more fully utilize the ISS. And to explore farther than ever before ...to an asteroid and on to Mars.
- This shift will allow us to advance our technology, open new markets and create more American jobs, making our aerospace industry even more competitive and increasing our economic and national security.
- So, to those who say our best exploration days are behind us, I simply must disagree. While it is wonderful to reminisce about the past (That is what we come to do at the Smithsonian), NASA continues to focus on the future.
- You need only admire the amazing space shuttles and their accomplishments to realize that the people, organizations and nation that created them, have only just begun.
- Vehicles with names like Orion, Dragon and Dreamchaser are being built all across the country today that will continue and expand on the Space Shuttle's many accomplishments.
- So, it is my honor to deliver Discovery to you today, for you to share this national treasure with the nation – telling not only the stories of the past, but ushering in the promise of the future.
- At NASA, we remain committed to deliver a space program that advances the human condition and the human spirit!
- Thank you.