

Spaceport News



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National Space Club Florida Committee honors Kennedy

By Jeff Stuckey
Editor

Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy is inspired each day as he walks by a picture of Dr. Kurt H. Debus on the way to his fourth floor office at the Headquarters Building.

Debus, center director from 1962 to 1974, oversaw the historic Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions and supervised the construction of launch facilities for the Redstone, Jupiter, Juno and Pershing missiles.

Now Kennedy is helping NASA strategize how to develop the launch facilities for the next-generation spacecraft that will replace the space shuttle fleet.

So it is fitting the National Space Club Florida Committee honored Kennedy with the 2006 Debus Award at an April 14 ceremony at the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Facility at the KSC Visitor Complex.

Kennedy shared his appreciation for the award with the Debus family. "I walk past your father's picture every day and can't help but think about the difference he made in our lives," he said. "To have an award in his name is very special."

The Debus Award recognizes significant contributions made in Florida to American aerospace efforts. It focuses on individuals associated with launch vehicles,

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CENTER DIRECTOR Jim Kennedy receives the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award from the National Space Club. Next to Kennedy is a portrait of Debus.

NASA, HDNet announce broadcast partnership

NASA and HDNet have partnered to provide high-definition TV coverage of space shuttle launches through 2010.

The agreement ensures the remaining shuttle liftoffs and landings at Kennedy Space Center will be broadcast in the highest quality television format available. NASA Administrator Mike Griffin and HDNet Chairman and President Mark Cuban discussed formal details of the agreement during a news conference April 6.

"We appreciate the financial investment and technical expertise HDNet has brought to the table to help us reach audiences interested in this next generation of television," Griffin said.

HDNet will broadcast the flights in high-definition TV, known as HDTV, which has at least twice the resolution of standard television formats. HDNet also will provide the agency with a



NASA ADMINISTRATOR Mike Griffin (left) and HDNet President Mark Cuban shake hands after announcing an agreement for HDNet to provide high-definition TV coverage of space shuttle launches through 2010.

standard broadcast signal of launches for use by media networks and NASA TV. When possible, the network will air

HDTV coverage of NASA's expendable rocket launches.

"This is an exciting deal for

(See HDNET, Page 7)

CALIPSO/CloudSat to provide 3-D view of clouds, aerosols



AT PRESS time, NASA's CALIPSO/Cloudsat satellites were scheduled to launch April 26 aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Visit www.nasa.gov for details.



Jim Kennedy
Center Director

The Kennedy Update

Greetings, everyone! I humbly start my column this week by reflecting on one of the greatest nights of my professional life, which occurred April 14.

That night, the Florida Committee of the National Space Club awarded me the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award for 2006. To be honored with an award with the namesake of the person I consider the "Father of KSC" is something I will treasure for the rest of my life. I'm extremely honored to join the likes of Adrian Laffitte, Dick Beagley and our own Bob Sieck and Tip Talone as fellow awardees.

It is extra special that Adrian is the current National Space Club Florida Committee chairman and found me worthy of joining the elite group of Debus Award winners. I thank him and his board members for selecting me.

While on stage accepting the award, I couldn't help but think of

the real reason I was standing there, and that is the people of KSC. There is nothing I have done here that was accomplished by myself. From the biggest launches to the smallest of tasks, we are all one big team, government and contractor alike, and I appreciate you all more than you will ever know.

So I humbly accepted the award with gratitude to everyone here who makes KSC a treasured icon of our nation and just the best place in the world to work. To my wife, Bernie, and mother, Bonnie, the two most important women in my life, you are what makes life worth living, and I thank you for all the loving support you give me daily.

At press time, I'm confidently looking forward to yet another picture-perfect launch of the CALIPSO and CloudSat satellites aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base,

his career, and particularly for his work overseeing the space shuttle's return to flight with the launch of STS-114 in July 2005.

"I accept this award with great pride and humility," he said. "I love the Kennedy Space Center – the people and the mission. For all that we do, thank you for allowing me to be a part of it."

NASA Associate Administrator Rex Geveden shared kind words about his colleague during the event. "You are honoring a great friend and a guy who has been my boss and mentor," he said. "I can not imagine anyone who would be a more deserving recipient of the award than Jim Kennedy. He is a tremendous asset to the nation's space program."

For information about the National Space Club Florida Committee, visit www.nscfl.com.

Calif. Hats off to our Launch Services Program team, who are again writing another successful chapter of launch history for NASA. We are all proud of your accomplishments.

Now it's on to GOES-N, launching aboard a Boeing Delta IV rocket from the Cape, set for May 18. There is never a loss for excitement in the launch business.

For the first time, I missed spending time with so many of you at the annual KSC All American Picnic because of the first CloudSat launch scrub. I heard it

"Now it's on to GOES-N, launching aboard a Boeing Delta IV rocket from the Cape, set for May 18."

was a fabulous day with so much fun, food and activities for the whole family.

Many thanks to Shuttle Processing's Jeff Wheeler and his picnic committee for executing such a wonderful event. In my stead, I know Jim Hattaway truly enjoyed meeting with all of you, along with your families and

friends; they are what make life great.

Finally, we have a fantastic weekend coming up May 6 with the induction of three more legends into the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Charlie Bolden, Henry Hartsfield and Brewster Shaw will be enshrined into a group that includes such legends as Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Jim Lovell, Alan Shepard, Bob Crippen and John Young.

These three astronauts, together, have flown on the space shuttle 10 times and accumulated nearly 1,700 flight hours in space. The induction ceremony will be held at our own KSC Visitor

Complex and you can contact them at 449-4444 to find out how to obtain tickets to this special event. Congratulations to Charlie, Henry and Brewster. I look forward to seeing them among the collection of stars during this very special event.

Take care, everyone, and see you around the center!

April NASA employees of the month



The April NASA employees of the month, standing from left, are: Andrew Peffer, Safety and Mission Assurance; David Adcock, International Space Station and Payload Processing; Richard Smith, Engineering Development; Charles Jenkins, Shuttle Processing; and Charles Tatro, Launch Services Program. Seated from left are: Rebecca Mazzone, Information Technology and Communications Services; Muzette Fiander, Center Operations; and Patty Hepburn, Chief Financial Office.

KENNEDY...

(Continued from Page 1)

spacecraft operations, ground support services, space education and spaceport research and development.

Kennedy also thanked the NASA family. "It is very humbling to think of what we do as a team, and for me to stand here and accept this honor," Kennedy said. "To the National Space Club, thank you for your service to our community and for this recognition tonight."

For more than 45 years, the National Space Club has promoted the exchange of information about rocketry and astronautics. The club's award steering committee recognized Kennedy for his professional efforts in supporting the U.S. space program throughout

KSC dedicates Young-Crippen Firing Room

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

Firing Room 1 in Kennedy Space Center's Launch Control Center has been renamed the "Young-Crippen Firing Room" in honor of the first space shuttle mission crew.

The dedication was announced during a special presentation honoring the 25th anniversary of STS-1 at the Training Auditorium, where Commander John Young and Pilot Robert Crippen joined employees to discuss the historic mission.

During the event, which was broadcast on NASA TV, a plaque at the firing room was unveiled by Bob Sieck, a shuttle project flight engineer for STS-1, and Norm Carlson, who was the NASA test director.

Many people have passed through the firing room's doors throughout the years, including those who worked on the Apollo and then the Space Shuttle programs. Among the space program "firsts" that began from the firing room are the first Saturn V (Apollo 4) unmanned launch, on Nov. 4, 1967; the first lunar orbital mission (Apollo 8) on Dec. 21, 1968; and Apollo 11, the first lunar landing mission on July 16, 1969.

According to Carlson, Firing Room 1 was the most popular control room during the Apollo era and continued to play an important role in space shuttle launches.



JOHN YOUNG (left) and Bob Crippen, the crew of STS-1, spoke to employees April 6 in the Training Auditorium. At right is the door of firing room 1 in the Launch Control Center.

Dignitaries and famous people who viewed launches from the firing room include President Jimmy Carter, Vice President Spiro Agnew, the late comedian Jack Benny, Barbara Eden of "I Dream of Jeannie" fame and actor James Garner.

The training auditorium was filled with high energy and anticipation as Young and Crippen took the stage to share highlights of the mission, adding a bit of their own humor as they fielded questions from the audience.

Crippen said STS-1 was a test pilot's dream and one of the highlights of his life. "This is my favorite place in the world. And you're the greatest launch team in the world," Crippen said.

Young said workers at KSC

paid attention to every detail to get Columbia ready for flight. "The work you did was awesome," Young said. "And getting people off the Earth is the single most important program we're working on today in this country and in the world."

Several retired and current workers from the Gemini, Apollo and early space shuttle years were in the audience.

Terry Keeney, an orbiter hydraulics system engineer on STS-1, said working on the space shuttle from the beginning of the program was like a dream that came true. "Even as a child I was interested in the space program," Keeney said. "Being offered a job at KSC when I got out of college is



what brought me to Florida."

Ivan Velez was an orbiter mechanism lead engineer who worked on Columbia's payload bay doors, landing gear and crew hatches to prepare for STS-1. "It was a very exciting time since it was the first reusable space vehicle," Velez said. As a relatively new engineer from Puerto Rico, Velez said he felt privileged and fortunate to have been involved at the beginning of the Space Shuttle Program.

"The future of civilization depends on explorers," he said.

My Story

By Joylene Hall Ware
NASA Engineer



This column provides Kennedy Space Center employees and retirees a chance to tell a story about their life.

Born on Sept. 2, 1978, to proud parents John and Josephine Hall in Jacksonville, I graduated as valedictorian of the Jean Ribault Senior High

School class of 1997. I was president of the National Honor Society and involved in the National Beta Club and Trojan Scholars. I also was second runner-up Miss

Ribault, and was included in Who's Who Among American High School, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Ribault 200 Marching Band and College Students.

I am one of four siblings who

graduated from the high school, where I also received an award for perfect attendance for 12 years. I became interested in math and science at an early age. Upon graduation, I was offered a full academic scholarship to Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee.

I graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from FAMU. Then I received a Master of Science in industrial engineering, specializing in engineering management from Florida State University with honors.

I am now pursuing a doctorate

in industrial engineering and management systems at the University of Central Florida. Most of all, I received my license to preach the gospel at Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville and Greater Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee.

I am a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, White and Gold Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Golden Key Honor Society and Phi

(See MY STORY, Page 6)

2006 KSC All American Picnic celebrates v

By Jeff Stuckey
Editor

Astronaut Jerry Ross and five of his colleagues are grateful anytime they have a chance to visit Kennedy Space Center. Ross and NASA astronauts Tracy Caldwell, Mike Good, Jose Hernandez, Greg Johnson and David Wolf took the opportunity to thank members of the KSC work force at the April 22 All American Picnic for the great work they perform throughout the year.

"You do a tremendous job here at KSC," Ross said during the event at KARS Park 1. "You've worked hard and accomplished a lot. Every once in a while, I may get frustrated in my job and I push back from my desk and ask myself what I would rather be doing.

"I've never come up with anything else; this is the best place to be, the best people to work with and the best possible place I can think of to serve my great country. We depend on you to turn those wrenches the right direction to make sure everything is A-OK when we launch, so thanks a lot."

With Center Director Jim Kennedy attending the scheduled CALIPSO/CloudSat launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, KSC Associate Director Jim Hattaway took the opportunity to welcome the work force and their families to the annual event.

"When I talked to Jim last night, he asked that I express his sincere appreciation for everybody out here today, and his heartfelt thanks to everybody who helped put this picnic together," Hattaway said. "You know the people you work with, but to be able to come out and get to know their families and to celebrate our achievements at the Kennedy Space Center is wonderful. I'm very proud to be a part of this NASA and contractor family that takes on this difficult mission and does it with such magnificence."

The celebration included a children's carnival and rides, a car and motorcycle show, a fishing tournament, live entertainment and the popular Chili Cookoff, among many other activities.

The Fire Breathers from Boeing and the NASA International Space Station and Payload Processing directorate took top honors in the Chili Cookoff, winning the title of best chili, best exotic chili, best storefront and the people's choice chili. The group will donate \$1,186 from the event to a non-profit organization to be determined.

The All American Picnic committee would like your opinion on this year's event. Complete the survey at http://survey.ksc.nasa.gov/survey_1.cfm?s=KSC_Picnic to make next year's event even better.



THE 2006 Kennedy Space Center All American Picnic on April 22 offered beautiful views. Members spent the day playing carnival games, listening to presentations and enjoying the company of family and friends.



CHILDREN WHO are among the next generation of explorers test their skill on a carnival game at the picnic.



PLENTY OF smiling faces were seen in the carnival games area during this year's picnic held at KARS Park 1.



ABOVE, picnic. Below, history at the picnic.



work force's 'tremendous' achievements



weather. Employees and family enjoying great food.



THE food lines moved quickly at this year's picnic. Below, the Tuskegee Airmen talked about their history and signed autographs.



DENISE BUCKLES (left) and daughters Courtney and Caitlin try to find the lemon they had examined earlier at the Disability and Action Working Group's booth at the KSC All American Picnic. The group also offered other games to educate the public about how it feels to be deaf or blind.

Disability Awareness and Action Working Group demonstrates life skills

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

The Disability Awareness and Action Working Group (DAAWG) hosted exciting activities at the Kennedy Space Center All American Picnic April 22, and at least one member will continue inspiring others at an upcoming event.

"The objective for us is to educate adults and kids on what it's like to be deaf or blind," said Ed Tugg, chairperson for the DAAWG's American Sign Language and People Adjusting to Limited Sight informational booth at the picnic.

Sherie Aston-Shell of the Center for the Visually Impaired PALS organization and KSC employee Randall Crosby, who is blind, led DAAWG volunteers in demonstrating how to interact and help if they encounter a blind person.

One exercise started by using a talking clock, and then showed volunteers how they would accomplish daily tasks like eating breakfast, getting dressed and identifying money if they were blind.

The group also explained Braille and made name tags for

kids by using the writing system of raised dots. Kids learned how to move when blindfolded by using sound for reference. During one game, blindfolded participants identified a lemon they'd examined earlier among a group of fruits. To help people better communicate with the deaf, the group also taught sign language and how to spell using fingers.

Visitors gained appreciation for guide dogs, too. Frank Obremski brought his guide dog, Frostie, with him to explain the proper etiquette for interacting with these canines. Many people felt Frostie's participation was miraculous because he's recovering from a recent hit-and-run accident. Tugg brought his hearing guide dog, Banana, which is trained to make personal contact at any sound.

Crosby expressed his excitement about the chance to meet a variety of people at the event. "We have fun just like anyone else, and that's why we're at the picnic enjoying the other activities offered. It's also a great opportunity to connect with our young people who are open to learning new things," he said.

Crosby will exemplify this same spirit during a blind climbing

event April 29 at Melbourne's On the Edge Rock-Climbing Gym.

Through his friendship with fellow KSC employee Chaz Wendling, Crosby found a passion for the sport and Wendling found inspiration.

After Crosby expressed interest in the activity to Wendling, a rock climber, he helped Crosby perform his first climb. According to Wendling, Crosby climbed 25 feet and was beaming, and today he conquers even greater heights.

"I was so excited for my friend, because I know he was wandering out of his comfort zone and not looking back. It was amazing to see him on the wall, climbing for the first time, and it has been totally inspiring to watch him grow as a rock climber," said Wendling.

Crosby, an athlete before he lost his vision, wants others to continue being active despite physical disabilities.

"This sport gives me the same feeling of accomplishment and even euphoria that I got when I participated in wrestling and cross-country in my high school days," he shared.

For DAAWG news, visit <http://nasa.ksc.nasa.gov/daawg/index.htm>.

New Vandenberg control center ready for launches

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

As a Delta II expendable launch vehicle carrying two NASA satellites sat on Space Launch Complex 2 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California for liftoff, the launch team monitored and gave the "go" for launch for the first time from the new Mission Director's Center.

Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy was on hand during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 20 to officially open two new NASA control centers located under one roof: the Mission Director's Center and the Launch Vehicle Data Center, also known as the LVDC.

Located inside a hangar called Building 836, the dual facility spans nearly 6,000 square feet on one floor. The LVDC has two control rooms and is modeled after the Launch Vehicle Data Center inside Hangar AE at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, according to Jimmy Rogers, NASA Launch Services Program infrastructure project manager.

The Mission Director's Center and LVDC are outfitted to acquire real-time data and provide voice



TAKING PART in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new control center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, from left, are: Larry Stalter, Analex project manager; Charlie Floyd, Analex program manager; Steve Cox, NASA project engineer; Ray Lugo, NASA Launch Services Program deputy manager; John Demko, NASA-Vandenberg Air Force Base resident office manager; Jim Kennedy, KSC director; and Kurt Landthaler, Analex construction coordinator.

communications between teams.

"This new facility consolidates launch and mission operations under one roof," Rogers said. "It will be used to support all NASA launches and customers at Vandenberg."

The original launch control center was located in Building 840 and has been in use since the

1970s. The facility could no longer support the capacity needed during prelaunch and launch activities, according to Rogers. The equipment was outdated, which made repairs difficult and costly.

Tom Khalili, NASA infrastructure/facility manager at Vandenberg, said the new facility will be more reliable, efficient and cost effective for future launches.

The new LVDC was designed by General Physics Corp. in Santa Maria, Calif. The project was managed by the Launch Services Program on a fixed price contract. The facility was completed in January, but activation and testing occurred in November 2005.

Steve Cox, NASA LVDC lead

engineer for activation, was instrumental in readying the facility for activation. Analex Corp. technicians provided construction and integration support under the Expendable Launch Vehicle Integration Support contract.

Cox worked on the new LVDC at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station four years ago. At Vandenberg, he worked to define operational requirements for the new rooms and monitored the construction to make sure all requirements were met. He also managed the research and development systems budget, design, procurement, installation and system checkout.

Larry Stalter of Analex Corp. is Vandenberg's area manager and LVDC construction project manager. He worked with Rogers, Cox and NASA-Vandenberg resident manager John Demko to coordinate the installation of new consoles and electronics and validate the new configuration prior to the first use.

"These new facilities will enhance the current capabilities for NASA management and engineering to provide critical pre- and post-launch coordination, leading to safe and successful launches from Vandenberg," Stalter said.

Rogers said the project took 14 months to complete, from construction start to system activation. "The dedication of the NASA and Analex construction team, along with open communications, were key contributors to the success of the project," Rogers said.

MY STORY . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

Beta Sigma Honor Society. I'm also a NASA scholar, a member of the McKnight Achievers Society, and a Florida/Georgia Alliance for Minority Participation Scholar.

In addition, I was an industrial engineering co-op at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., after being recruited by Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy.

Currently, I am a logistics operations engineer at KSC, where I assist with shuttle processing logistics support functions or flight hardware, and GSE and long-term supportability.

I also evaluate processes, methods and metrics of logistics contractors for operational performance and provide technical insight within an area of special-

ization for launch.

I have volunteered for the Speakers' Bureau and Brevard County Science Fair, and as a mentor to students at Brevard and Orange County schools. Also, I was the keynote speaker for the second-annual USA Soul Food Black History Month Luncheon and keynote speaker for Englewood Elementary School. Recently, I was selected by the center director and shuttle processing director to participate in the Kennedy Graduate Fellowship Program to continue my academic pursuits at UCF.

Last but not least, I am an adjunct engineering professor at Valencia Community College in Orlando. I reside in Orlando with my husband, Kyan Ware, Assistant State Attorney of Florida for the 18th Circuit.

NASA Alumni League seeking Kennedy retirees

The NASA Alumni League, a non-profit organization formed in 1986, encourages individuals who support the nation's civil aeronautics and space programs. Membership is available for anyone who has been an employee of NASA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics or Jet Propulsion Laboratory, or a detailee to any of these organizations for one year. Programs offer members a variety of ways to further their participation in the aeronautics and space fields and contribute their expertise. The local Brevard County Chapter of the league meets the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at the Radisson Resort at the Port in Cape Canaveral. For reservations, please contact Suzanne Jamieson at 452-2633 no later than the Sunday before the meeting. For membership information, contact Mary King at maryhking@bellsouth.net.

Remembering Our Heritage

35 years ago: NASA pride soars with Mariner 9 launch

By Kay Grinter
Reference Librarian

The successful Mariner 9 launch to Mars on May 30, 1971, gave the confidence of the NASA launch team a needed boost following the loss of Mariner 8 on May 8.

The team from Kennedy Space Center's Unmanned Launch Operations, Lewis Research Center, General Dynamics and support contractors was consumed that month with trying to correct the problem that caused the failure of the Centaur stage, the booster on the Atlas rocket used to launch the Mariners.

Launch Director John Neilon recalls: "We had very few days left when we got Mariner 9 off the ground. If we had not launched when we did, we would have had to wait until the next launch opportunity in 26 months or launch after the prime opportunity with an ever-diminishing chance of success."

The Mariner missions were planned in pairs, with identical spacecraft and complementary mission objectives. The goals of Mariners 8 and 9 were to search for an environment that could support exobiological activity; to gather information about the origin and evolution of Mars; and to collect

basic data related to planetary physics, geology, planetology and cosmology.

They also would provide data that would help Viking planners choose touch-down sites. Onboard cameras would provide the imagery; ultraviolet spectrometers, and infrared radiometers and spectrometers would provide other clues.

Neilon represented the launch team in the control room at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory 167 days later, when Mariner 9 went into Martian orbit on Nov. 13 to become the first spacecraft to orbit a planet other than Earth.

Upon arrival, a massive dust storm obscured virtually the entire planet from the cameras' view. The storm gradually subsided, and by Feb. 6, 1972, the dust had settled in most areas. By then, Mariner 9 had mapped more than a third of the planet's surface.

The complex network of "canals" proposed by Dr. Percival Lowell was not observed. However, Mars was discovered to be geologically active, with volcanic mountains higher than those on Earth and a crevasse three to four times deeper than the Grand Canyon. Indications were that free-flowing water might once have existed.

A map of the entire globe of



MARINER 9 is processed shortly before its May 30, 1971, launch. When the mission went into Martian orbit 167 days later, Mariner 9 became the first spacecraft to orbit a planet other than Earth. The spacecraft circled Mars 698 times and took more than 7,000 photographs.

Mars, the first detailed map of another planet, was prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey from 1,500 of the more than 7,000 photos taken by Mariner 9 and published by the *New York Times* on Nov. 27.

After circling Mars 698 times, mapping the planet's entire surface and photographing the Martian moons Deimos and Phobos, Mariner 9 was shut down Oct. 27, 1972.

Young, Gemini workers recognize 40th anniversary

ASTRONAUT JOHN Young (at podium) recently marked the 40th anniversary of Project Gemini as he addressed veterans of the space program in Titusville's Space View Park. He spoke in front of the U.S. Space Walk of Fame's Gemini Monument, where more than 100 former workers attended the event. Following the ceremony, the former workers and their families enjoyed a guided tour of the Kennedy Space Center, concluding with a dinner at the Royal Oaks Country Club in Titusville.



HDNET . . . (Continued from Page 1)

HDNet," Cuban said. "Every shuttle launch is a unique and historic American experience. For the next four years, the place to watch this full live broadcast experience in high definition will be on HDNet. We are proud that NASA has partnered with HDNet for this important role."

For information about HDNet, visit <http://www.hd.net>.

Former shuttle commanders entering U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame

Space history will be made on May 6 when more than 25 U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame members, including Buzz Aldrin, Jim Lovell and John Young, gather to induct three of America's finest space shuttle commanders into the Hall of Fame during a public ceremony at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

The commander of the first joint U.S. and Russian space shuttle mission, the commander of Space Shuttle Discovery's maiden voyage and the commander of the mission that paved the way for construction of the International Space Station will increase the number of space explorers enshrined in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame to 63.

Charles Bolden, Henry Hartsfield Jr. and Brewster Shaw Jr. will join the likes of such American space heroes as Neil Armstrong and John Glenn when they are enshrined during a public ceremony. Visit www.kennedyspacecenter.com.



THE 2006 U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame class includes, from left, Charles Bolden, Henry Hartsfield Jr. and Brewster Shaw Jr. The former space shuttle commanders will be inducted May 6 at the Visitor Complex.

Exploration Park offers front door for commercial businesses

Kennedy Space Center is seeking private-sector partners to develop a space technology and commerce park to be named "Exploration Park at John F. Kennedy Space Center."

The park is expected to attract tenants engaged in space technology, space commerce, space education and otherwise involved in promoting and implementing

the Vision for Space Exploration. Exploration Park will be located along Space Commerce Way, behind the KSC Visitor Complex.

"Exploration Park will be a site where the private sector brings both traditional and non-traditional work to Kennedy Space Center in support of both our NASA programs and commercial space initiatives that find value in

locating their operations here," said KSC Director Jim Kennedy.

KSC expects to formally solicit development proposals soon.

"This concept offers a front door at Kennedy Space Center for organizations that expect to be involved in NASA's exploration activities, or for commercial ventures that seek to support the vision and develop low-Earth

orbit," said Spaceport Development Manager Jim Ball.

"It's also an ideal site for support services and other uses that require close proximity to KSC facilities and personnel."

For information about NASA and agency programs, visit www.nasa.gov/home.

National Day of Prayer is May 4

The Kennedy Space Center observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 4 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Training Auditorium. With supervisory permission, all employees are invited to attend.

The U.S. Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm annually our dependence on God by recognizing a national day of prayer.

"Now as never before, Americans need to be in prayer for our country and its leaders," Center Director Jim Kennedy said. "The upcoming return to flight, the many challenges and changes that lie ahead, as well as the ongoing fight for freedom in Iraq, are but a few reminders of the importance of upholding our country, its leaders and the space program in prayer."

The theme for this year's observance is "America, Honor God."



John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

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