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John F. Kennedy Space Center

STS-108 launch sends Sept. 11 flags to space

Space Shuttle Endeavour carried nearly 6,000 American flags and many other special mementos into space when it launched Dec. 5.

The flags were carried to low-Earth orbit for the "Flags for Heroes and Families" campaign honoring victims, survivors and relief workers associated with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Also carried were

- three large U.S. and Marine Corps flags, which were flying at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the Pennsylvania State Capitol during the attacks,
- a number of New York City police officer shields and patches,
- a Fire Department of New York flag and
- a poster with the pictures of firefighters who lost their lives in the attacks.

Crew members aboard the Space

Shuttle Endeavour and the International Space Station marked the three-month anniversary of the attacks on Dec. 11 at 8:46 a.m. EST as part of a nationwide tribute to those who lost their lives in the attacks on Sept. 11,

Endeavour returned to Kennedy Space Center with the flags and other mementos on Dec. 17 at 12:55 p.m.

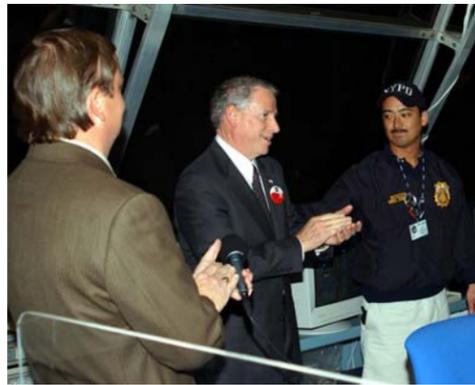
Families of victims and survivors will receive the flags and memorial certificates.

Following the STS-108 launch on Dec. 5, NASA's Acting Administrator Daniel Mulville addressed the launch team in the Launch Control Center Firing Room.

"You make it look easy and I know it's not. ... You made America proud today."

He and Launch Director Mike Leinbach recognized New York

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NASA's Acting Administrator Daniel Mulville (center) joins Launch Director Mike Leinbach (left) in recognizing New York Police Department Detective Michael Jermyn in the LCC Firing Room after watching the launch of STS-108 on Dec. 5. Jermyn represented the "Flags for Heros and Families" campaign.



Next issue Jan. 11

The next issue of *Spaceport News* will be published Jan. 11, 2002. Happy Holidays!

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2 launches, 2 coasts

With the launch of the Jason 1/TIMED mission Dec. 7, following the launch of Endeavour on Dec. 5, the Kennedy Space Center team had launched two vehicles from two coasts within less than 48 hours. Pictured at right, a Delta II rocket carrying Jason 1 and TIMED appears to erupt from the undulating clouds of smoke below. Liftoff from Launch Complex 2W at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., occurred at 10:07 a.m. Jason 1 joins the orbiting Topex/Poseidon satellite to continue observations of the global climate interaction occurring between the sea and the atmosphere as a result of stored solar energy. The TIMED satellite will study a little-known region above the atmosphere.



Recognizing Our People

Channel 2 wins Emmy for KSC story



Channel 2 reporter Dan Billow is pictured with the regional Emmy he and his WESH-TV team won for the news documentary "Atlantis Upclose at Countdown, Jan. 2001."

A Channel 2 team led by reporter Dan Billow was presented with an Emmy award Dec. 1 for the half-hour documentary "Atlantis Upclose at Countdown, Jan. 2001."

The regional award was presented to the WESH-TV team by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Kennedy Space Center's Final Inspection Team, then headed by NASA's Greg Katnik, worked with Channel 2 to bring the sights and sounds of Space Shuttle mission STS-106 final preflight inspection to the public.

Final Inspection Team member Mike Barber, with United Space Alliance, wore a camera and microphone to document the hazardous operation during which the fueled Shuttle seems alive.

The Shuttle exhales billowing clouds of oxygen while the contracting hardware containing the super cold cryogenic fuel creaks and groans.

"Very few people get to experience being on the pad when the Shuttle is fueled," Billow said. "We thought it would be a great thing to share with the public."

"But we could have never done it without the support and cooperation we received from the KSC team. We felt privileged that they would take the time and go to the trouble to integrate a camera into such a hazardous operation so that we could tell their story."

Katnik and other KSC team members believed the story would be educational and would help portray an amazing example of the many behind-the-scenes operations that lead up to the Shuttle launch on Sept. 8, 2000.

"Channel 2 did a great job on the report. We were thrilled to see a story about a complex technical subject made very entertaining as well," Katnik said.

Other members of the Channel 2 team who won the award are Ben Smegelsky, photographer; Mike Gemelli, photographer; Travis Sherwin, producer; Mike Nanus, editor; and Chris Allan, editor.

Billow, who has covered the Shuttle program since 1987, also recently won a Harry Kolcum Memorial News and Communications Award from the National Space Club Florida Committee.

Last of original KSC operators retires

Rozella Nance, better known as "Rosie," became one of the original Kennedy Space Center operators on Feb. 3, 1964, and she has the picture to prove it.

Nance is the last of the original operators to leave KSC, having recently retired.

Her going-away launch photo was signed by many of the KSC team members she's worked with, including many of KSC's senior managers.

"She's always been extremely customer oriented and helpful. Everyone will miss her," said Bill Wilson, NASA manager for the telephone system. He has worked with Nance throughout her career.

Nance, a graduate of Cocoa High School, never planned to work at KSC for so many years, she said. It just worked out that way.

"First it was one thing that kept me here and then another," Nance. "Before I knew it I had spent 37 years in this room."

The room referred to is in the Communications Distribution and Switching Center in the Industrial Area. Although her location stayed the same, telephone technology changed a lot during her career.

At the beginning of her career, Nance served as one of dozens of operators who patched incoming and outgoing calls on a switchboard. Prior to her retirement, she and one other operator answered general information and trouble calls and placed international calls for Center employees.

Nance began her career with RCA and finished it with SMI International on the ODIN telephone support contract.



Rozella "Rosie" Nance, above, the last of the original KSC operators, recently retired. At left, she is pictured at her station in 1964.



December Employees of the Month

December Employees of the Month pictured are (left to right) Joe Simpson, Spaceport Services; Linda Krager, Cape Canaveral Spaceport Management Office; Randall Heald, Office of the Chief Counsel; Erin Campbell, Chief Financial Office; and Mark Gordon, ISS/Payloads Processing. Not shown are Beth Smith, Associate Director's Office; Mike Ellis, Shuttle Processing; Marty Loughheed, ELV & Payload Carriers Programs; and Joel Shealy, Spaceport Engineering and Technology.

tions across the Florida program elements. Allen, who previously served as Program Manager, Space Shuttle Development, will also advise Pickavance on program-wide activities.



November Employees of the Month

November Employees of the Month pictured (front row, left to right) are Maxine Johnson, Spaceport Engineering and Technology; Rose Austin, ISS/Payloads Processing; Dianna Lampert, Launch Integration Office; (back row/left to right) Mario Busacca, External Relations and Business Development; and John Shaffer, Spaceport Services. Not shown are Gloria Marsh, Procurement Office; Damian Ludwiczak, ELV and Payload Carriers Programs; and Don DeHart, Shuttle Processing.

New Associate Administrator of OSF named

Frederick Gregory, an astronaut and the senior executive currently responsible for the safety and reliability of all agency programs, has been named Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight.

Gregory, 60, is Associate Administrator for the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (OSMA) at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

He replaces Joseph Rothenberg, who retired Dec. 15.

"Safety permeates everything Fred does. He's the right person for this job," said Acting NASA Administrator Daniel Mulville. "His experience as an astronaut, pilot and manager of flight safety programs is essential during this period of transition for the Office of Space Flight."

As a NASA astronaut, Gregory logged more than 455 hours in space during three Space Shuttle missions. In 1985, he served as pilot on board Challenger during STS-51B.

Gregory was mission commander for STS-33 in 1989 and STS-44 in 1991. Gregory was selected as an astronaut in 1978, after serving in the U.S. Air Force.

He logged nearly 7,000 hours in 50 types of aircraft, including 550 combat missions over Vietnam.

In his current position, Gregory is charged with overseeing all safety issues within NASA through the development, implementation and oversight of reliability, maintainability and quality assurance policies.

"I deeply appreciate the confidence Dr. Mulville has shown in me throughout my NASA career," said Gregory. "NASA has the safest and most reliable human space flight program in the world. I'm going to work to make sure we continue to safely explore and develop space for the benefit of everyone here on Earth."

Gregory has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, 16 Air Medals, The Air Force Commendation Medal and three NASA Space Flight medals. His honors also include the NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the NASA Outstanding Leadership Award.

Michael Greenfield, OSMA deputy associate administrator, will serve as acting administrator during Gregory's interim assignment.





Holiday Cel



Celebration



NASA held its Holiday Celebration at KARS II Dec. 13. Agency employees enjoyed singing by fellow employees, a raffle and a buffet lunch. Center Director Roy Bridges and Deputy Director James Jennings addressed the crowd with messages of good cheer.





KSC Christmas Coffee



Kennedy Space Center workers took part in the Annual KSC Christmas Coffee on Dec. 11 at the Debus Conference Facility at the KSC Visitor Complex. Employees and retirees are pictured enjoying the festivities and conversations with colleagues.



KSC helps 'Share the Opportunities'

Key NASA officials met with minority university presidents and administrators from historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions and tribal colleges and universities Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 to highlight opportunities and partnerships available with the agency.

NASA's "Share the Opportunities" Conference for minority university leaders – a NASA-wide event hosted by NASA/Kennedy Space Center – was held at the Renaissance Orlando Resort in Orlando. It drew about 300 participants, including 146 representatives from minority universities.

NASA representatives identified competitive research opportunities available through research announcements and education announcements and activities.

The representatives also identified the potential opportunities in small and disadvantaged business announcements and activities, and technology transfer and commercialization initiatives.

"It was a great opportunity for NASA to get to know the capabilities of America's minority universities and for the minority universities to learn more about NASA's research needs," said James Jennings, KSC deputy director.

Jennings came up with the idea of holding the conference to inform the minority university community about NASA: the Agency, its mission, enterprises, centers and

opportunities.

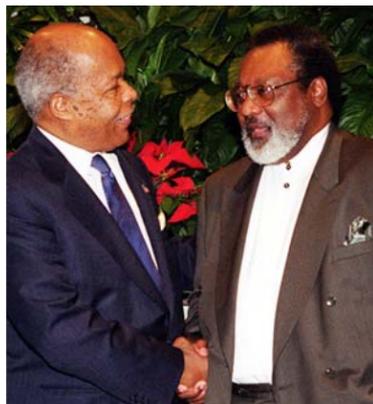
Dr. Louis Sullivan, president of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta and former Secretary of Health and Human Services in the George H. W. Bush administration, and Dr. James Shanley, president of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium in Virginia, were the keynote speakers.

During his address, Shanley told the group, "I would like to thank the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for hosting this conference at Kennedy Space Center and giving Tribal Colleges the opportunity to talk one-on-one with people from the various NASA Centers. We have made some great contacts in the areas of distance education programs, environmental science and partnerships with an emphasis on working with students in grades K-12."

He noted that about a year ago, NASA signed a Cooperative Agreement with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and awarded a grant to provide NASA/Tribal College Partnerships.

Sullivan recognized retired NASA administrator Dan Goldin for his strong support of minority university programs.

"I would like to commend him personally because he did exactly what he said he would do, and I think all of us owe him a great vote of thanks and congratulations for his tenure," Sullivan said.



NASA's "Share the Opportunities" Conference drew many attendees, including those pictured. At left, are Dr. Louis Sullivan, (left) president of Morehouse School of Medicine, and James Jennings, KSC deputy director. Below (from left) are Dr. James Shanley, president of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium in Virginia; Roy Bridges, KSC director; and JoAnn Morgan, head of the External Relations and Business Development directorate.



In remembrance

A small contingent from the United States Merchant Marine Academy recently visited Kennedy Space Center to honor two of their astronaut graduates. Members of the group are pictured honoring astronaut Elliot See at the Astronaut Memorial at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. See lost his life on Feb. 28, 1966. The academy group also visited KSC to honor STS-108 Pilot Mark Kelly, who graduated from the academy in 1986. The group was on hand to watch the STS-108 launch.

Remembering Our Heritage



Pictured is an early Vanguard test launch made on Dec. 8, 1956.

45 years ago: Vanguard test launch

Launches from Cape Canaveral were already commonplace before NASA was formed in October 1958. Several launchers were under development.

One of the early test launches took place on Dec. 8, 1956 – the launch of the Vanguard Test Vehicle Zero (TV-0).

TV-0 arrived at Hangar C at Cape Canaveral in October 1956, the Vanguard project's temporary assembly building.

The vehicle was actually Viking 13, refurbished and renamed, and had only one stage. It was erected on the old Viking launch stand at pad 18A a month later.

The stand had been shipped from White Sands, N. M., to be used until the more advanced Vanguard program launch structure was ready.

Stress was high in the control room of the blockhouse for the launch. Rain was falling during the final moments of the countdown.

Col. Asa Gibbs, the Air Force project officer, and Bob Schlechter, the Martin launch director, were among those present.

A variety of difficulties caused

two holds in the countdown. Then, as today, the appearance of a ship in the impact area caused an additional delay.

"It's gonna blow up, Bob," Gibbs kept insisting. "Cancel! It'll never fly!"

But it did fly! Lifting off at 1:05 a.m., TV-0 achieved an altitude of 126.5 miles and traveled 97.6 miles downrange. Overall, the TV-0 launch achieved its prescribed objectives.

A descendent of the Vanguard rocket is the Delta expendable launch vehicle, still in use today.

The first Delta, built to NASA specifications by the Douglas Aircraft Co., flew in May 1960. The Delta second stage was the Vanguard with a few modifications.

The Jason/TIMED launch on Dec. 7 marked the 100th flight of the Boeing Delta II.

For more information on the Vanguard Program, see *Vanguard: A History* by Constance McLaughlin Green and Milton Lomask, NASA SP-4202, available on the Web at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/SP-4202/cover.htm>.

STS-108 ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Police Department Detective Michael Jermyn during the post-launch address.

Jermyn attended the launch as a guest representing the New York Police and Fire Departments whose members lost their lives in the Sept. 11 attacks.

"You guys did a wonderful job and now we have heroes in space," Jermyn said.

Also during the postflight activities, Joseph Rothenberg, retired associate administrator for space flight at NASA Headquarters in Washington, was recognized for his service to the space program. Rothenberg retired from his post Dec. 15.

Mission STS-108 was the 12th Space Shuttle flight to the International Space Station (ISS).

The 11-day mission was the first Utilization Flight (UF1) of the Station program. The main objective of the mission was to transfer hardware into the ISS and perform the third ISS crew rotation.

STS-108 was the final Shuttle mission of 2001 and the 107th Shuttle flight overall.



Endeavour comes home

After dropping through cloud cover Dec. 17, Orbiter Endeavour approaches Runway 15 at the KSC Shuttle Landing Facility, with a mission elapsed time of 11 days, 19 hours, 35 minutes. Main gear touchdown occurred at 12:55 p.m. EST. The landing was the 57th at KSC in the history of the Space Shuttle program.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

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