

Remarks By

Administrator Daniel S. Goldin

Apollo 11 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

National Air and Space Museum

July 20, 1999

Good morning and thank you for being here. Before I make my remarks about Apollo I'd like to just tell the world how proud I am of that team that put safety first last night and didn't rush off for a launch - we've got lots of time to launch again when it's safe. Your NASA team is doing a good job.

Thank you all. Thank you all for being here. While we are celebrating the incredible achievements of the Apollo 11 crew today, many of us are a little sad too. Don Engen, Admiral Engen, was a good friend to all of us. And he was an incredible champion of all types of human flight. We will dearly miss him, for his vision, for his enthusiasm and his focus on maintaining America's precious history in air and space. I want to thank Vice President Gore for being here and providing the leadership that has kept the United States as the world's leader in air and space. Your commitment to the

space program is a foundation for an amazing new millennium of successes. Thank you everyone here at the Air and Space Museum who worked so hard to coordinate this morning's event. We appreciate your tireless efforts at what must be a trying time for each one of you. Most importantly, I want to congratulate the entire Apollo team and particularly the three men on the podium who risked their lives on the first mission to land on the moon and return safely to Earth -- Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Micheal Collins. Your pioneering efforts captured the world's imagination and your stellar example of dedication and determination continue to inspire all of us. Certainly it inspired me to reach for the stars.

Since 1910, when the Wright Brothers were awarded the first Langley medal, this honor has been reserved only for those who made truly outstanding contributions to aeronautics and astronautics. The Apollo 11 crew has left a permanent impression on our world and I am proud to honor them today. Congratulations on yet another milestone and thank you for giving your very best to America.