

REMARKS FOR ADMINISTRATOR BOLDEN
ATLANTIS ROLLOVER/SIGNING CEREMONY

Nov. 2, 2012

Thank you, Bob (Cabana).

It's wonderful to be here again with you, the Kennedy workforce, and with *Atlantis*, my old friend, that I had the privilege to command on STS-45. Thanks also to Bo Bobko and Chris Ferguson, the first and last commanders of Atlantis, for joining us today.

In the magnificent space ship behind me are the tangible representations of a nation's hopes and dreams. We couldn't be where we are, poised for tomorrow's progress, without the space shuttle, and there are more exciting things happening right now at Kennedy and all of NASA.

A little over a year after the shuttles retired, just this week we completed the first commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station. SpaceX launched that *Dragon* capsule right here from Cape Canaveral. It's the first of many such launches and we are well on track to once again launch American astronauts from U.S. soil in the next few years, right here from Kennedy.

The passion and dedication of the KSC workforce allowed us to proudly operate shuttle for three incredible decades. That same pride and dedication in today's KSC workforce will send us to new destinations like an asteroid and Mars - once again launching from right here on the Space Coast.

With your exceptional support, we will restore those awe-inspiring moments of human space flight for the next generation of explorers - those students who are studying hard right now to lead us in the exploration most ambitious exploration ever.

It's now NASA's honor to permanently house this magnificent spacecraft here, near where she rose to the skies 33 times, carrying 156 men and women. She is truly a testament to American ingenuity - to the dedication and passion of this workforce and of our nation to reach higher than ever and do what has not been done before. The Space Shuttle Program has been a proud achievement for our nation.

With 30 years of missions launching satellites like Magellan and Galileo aboard *Atlantis*; Expanding our international partnerships with visits to Mir and flying crew members from around the world; Building the International Space Station; and demonstrating that America, indeed, the world, had a new home in low Earth orbit.

Those of us who flew *Atlantis* will never forget the experience.

For those who made that possible here at Kennedy by processing this amazing vehicle time and again; to those who watched in awe as she launched and maneuvered in space and did incredible things -- those memories, that inspiration, that passion, is still yours. America still leads the world in exploration, and we're building on the many fine accomplishments of the Shuttle Program to take us where we have not gone before, to the places where our imagination and our aspiration tells us we can go if we channel the passions that built and launched *Atlantis* and create a new day.

Atlantis' final mission may have closed out the space shuttle program, but the spirit that created that program and built her is very much alive as we develop the technologies and systems not only for private companies to serve our needs in low Earth orbit, but to keep an asteroid and Mars in our grasp.

I want to thank the crews here today who flew *Atlantis* in space, the workforce that sent her successfully to orbit again and again, and the American public at large for making possible this incredible achievement that we share. Our best days are still ahead of us, with the shuttle as our tail wind.

God speed, *Atlantis*, on your next mission of inspiration and motivation!