

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 24, 2015

To the Men and Women of NASA:

I just wanted to congratulate you on this extraordinary feat. Twenty-five years ago today, the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into orbit to explore our solar system and plumb the deepest recesses of our universe. In our wildest dreams, we couldn't have predicted that it would produce more than a million observations that would expand and, indeed, transform our knowledge of the universe. We couldn't have known that it would open our eyes to the unimaginable beauty of the cosmos.

It's thanks to your own Administrator, Charlie Bolden, who was the pilot of the Shuttle mission that made all of this possible. Charlie flew four Shuttle missions in total—two as pilot and two as commander—including the historic first joint Space Shuttle mission with Russian cosmonauts. And as your fearless leader, he has taken NASA into the next frontier of exploration, from launching a spacecraft to Jupiter, to landing a rover called Curiosity on Mars.

It's thanks to Dr. John Grunsfeld. John is your Associate Administrator for Science, but he's also known as "the Hubble repairman." He's done eight spacewalks, totaling 58 hours and 30 minutes over the course of three Shuttle missions to upgrade and repair the Hubble. I think he's earned some overtime.

And it's thanks to all of you, men and women who have poured your heart and souls into America's space program—propelled by sheer nerve, talent, and a limitless sense of possibility—that America will continue to push the boundaries of humanity's reach. Today, as we celebrate 25 years of discovery, let's set our sights even higher, and inspire the next generation of astronauts, scientists, and engineers—young dreamers everywhere who are looking up to the heavens tonight—to boldly seek the next frontier. Thank you for all that you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered at the bottom of the page.