FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- APRIL 2014

55 Years Ago – 1959
April 2: Seven astronauts selected for Project Mercury, Washington, D.C.
April 9: Mercury 7 announced at press conference.

April 13: Discoverer 2 launched by Thor Agena, 4:18 p.m. EST, Vandenberg AFB.

50 Years Ago – 1964
April 2: Zond 1 launched by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya, 02:53 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

April 8: GT-1 Gemini 1 Launch (Unmanned) at 16:00:01 UTC. First Project Gemini flight which tested the Titan II launch vehicle. It made four orbits and was successfully recovered.

45 Years Ago – 1969
April 14: Nimbus 3 launched by Thor Agena, 02:54 a.m., EST, Vandenberg AFB.

April 17: First X-24 glide flight, Jerauld.R. Gentry pilot, DFRF, CA.

40 Years Ago – 1974
April 13: Westar 1 launched by Delta at 23:33:03 from Cape Canaveral. First satellite for domestic communications.

35 Years Ago – 1979
April 10: Soyuz 33 launched on a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 17:34:34 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut-6 space station. Crew: Nikolai N.Rukavishnikov and Georgi I. Ivanov (Bulgaria).

April 23: XV-15-2 (Tilt-Rotor Research Aircraft) achieved first hover flight, Arlington, TX.

30 Years Ago - 1984
April 3: Soyuz T-11 launched on Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 13:08:42 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut-7 space station. Crew: Yuri V.Malyshev, Gennadi M.Strekalov, and Rakesh Sharma (India).

April 6: STS-41C (Space Shuttle Challenger) launched, 8:58 a.m., EST, KSC. Crew: Robert L. Crippen, Francis R. Scobee, Terry J. Hart, George D. Nelson, and James Van Horfen. LDEF-1 launched from shuttle. First in-orbit spacecraft repair was performed on the Solar Maximum Mission. First direct ascent trajectory for Space Shuttle launch. Landed April 13, EAFB, CA. Mission duration: 6 days, 23 hours, and 41 minutes.

20 Years Ago – 1994
April 9: STS-59 (Space Shuttle Endeavour) launched, 7:05 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: Sidney M. Gutierrez, Kevin P. Chilton, Linda M. Godwin, Jerome “Jay” Apt, Michael R. Clifford, and Thomas D. Jones. Carried Space Radar Laboratory (SRL-1). First flight of Toughened Uni-Piece Fibrous Insulation, known as TUF, an improved thermal protection tile. First Hispanic Shuttle Commander (Gutierrez). Mission duration: 11 days, 5 hours, and 49 minutes.

April 13: GOES-8 launched on Atlas-Centaur rocket from Cape Canaveral at 1:04 EST.

15 Years Ago – 1999
April 15: Landsat 7, a remote sensing spacecraft, launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB at 18:32 UTC.

April 16: Sputnik Jr. 3 was a microsatellite that was carried by Progress M-41 to Mir and then pushed out by the crew on April 2. It carried tape recorded voices of the school children in Russia and France who built the satellite.
10 Years Ago – 2004

April 19: Soyuz TMA-4 launched on a Soyuz FG rocket from Baikonur at 03:19:00 UTC. Ferry flight to the International Space Station, bringing Expedition 9 (Padalka/Fincke). Crew: Gennady I. Padalka, E. Michael "Mike" Fincke, and André Kuipers (The Netherlands).

April 20: Gravity Probe-B, was launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB at 16:57 UTC to verify a derivative consequence of the General Relativistic Gravitation (GRG) theory, according to which a spinning body such as the Earth makes the space-time around it to rotate around, though extremely slowly.