

## **FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- FEBRUARY 2015**

### **85 Years Ago – 1930**

February 18: Pluto discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh of the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff Arizona.

### **70 Years Ago - 1945**

February 20: White Sands Proving Grounds established in New Mexico.  
During February - X-1 construction contracts placed with Bell Aircraft Corp, by the Army Air Force.

During February: Arthur C. Clarke wrote a letter to the editor published in Wireless World on geostationary communication satellites.

### **50 Years Ago - 1965**

February 3: OSO 2 (Orbiting Solar Observatory) launched aboard a Delta launch vehicle, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

February 16: Saturn (SA-9) orbited Pegasus-1, first micrometeoroid satellite, 9:37 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

February 17: Ranger 8 launched on Atlas-Agena B launch vehicle, 12:07 pm., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

### **45 Years Ago - 1970**

February 3: SERT 2 (Space Electric Rocket Test) launched on a Thor-Agena from Vandenberg AFB.

February 11: Japan becomes the fourth space power after it launches the satellite Ohsumi into orbit from Uchinoura Space Center, Japan. Ohsumi was launched on a Japanese Lambda 4-S booster at 04:25:00 UTC.

### **40 Years Ago - 1975**

February 6: SMS 2 (Synchronous Meteorological Satellite) launched on a Delta at 5:04 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

### **35 Years Ago – 1980**

February 9: NavStar 5 or GPS 1-5 launched at 3:08 p.m., EST, on an Atlas F from Vandenberg AFB. Part of Global Positioning System (GPS). The GPS was developed by the US Department of Defense to provide all-weather round-the-clock navigation capabilities for military ground, sea, and air forces.

February 14: Solar Maximum Mission (SMM) launched 10:57 a.m., EST, on a Delta from Cape Canaveral, Fla. First satellite to study the Sun in detail.

### **25 Years Ago - 1990**

February 9: Galileo probe to Jupiter given Venus flyby for gravity-assist boost.

February 28: STS-36 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched from KSC at 2:50 a.m., EST. Deployed Department of Defense payload shortly after achieving orbit. Crew: John O. Creighton, John H. Casper, David C. Hilmers, Richard M. Mullane, and Pierre J. Thuot. Landed at Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), CA at 10:08 a.m. PST on March 4. Mission Duration: 4 days, 10 hours, and 19 minutes.

### **20 Years Ago – 1995**

February 3: STS-63 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched from KSC at 12:22 a.m. EST. MIR space station rendezvous flyby. Crew: James D. Wetherbee, Eileen M. Collins, C. Michael Foale, Janice E. Voss, Bernard A. Harris, Jr., and cosmonaut Vladimir Titov (Russia). Landed at KSC at 6:51 a.m. EST on February 11. Mission Duration: 8 days, 6 hours, 29 minutes, 35 seconds.

### **15 Years Ago – 2000**

February 11: STS-99 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched from KSC at 12:43 p.m. EST. Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM). Crew: Kevin R. Kregel, Dominic L. Pudwill Gorie, Janet L. Kavandi, Janice E. Voss, Mamoru Mohri (Japan), and Gerhard P. J. Thiele (Germany). Landed at KSC at 6:23 p.m. EST on February 22. Mission Duration: 11 days, 5 hours, and 39 minutes.

February 14: NEAR Asteroid Eros Orbit Insertion -- The Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous - Shoemaker (NEAR Shoemaker), renamed in honor of Gene Shoemaker, was designed to study the near Earth asteroid Eros from close orbit over a period of a year.

### **5 Years Ago – 2010**

February 3: STS-130 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched from KSC at 4:14 a.m. EST. Delivered a third connecting module - the Tranquility node - to the ISS and a seven-windowed cupola to be used as a control room for robotics. Crew: George Zamka, Terry Virts, Kathryn Hire, Nicholas Patrick, Robert Behnken and Stephen Robison. Landed at KSC at 10:20 p.m. EST on Feb. 21, Mission Duration: 13 days, 18 hours, 6 minutes.

February 11: SDO, the Solar Dynamics Observatory, launched from Cape Canaveral on an Atlas 5 at 15:23 UTC. SDO observes the Sun from a 28.5° inclination geosynchronous orbit allowing continuous contact with a ground station at White Sands, NM. Data from the SDO instruments will support the development of improved space weather forecast models.

February 17: President Barack Obama, accompanied by members of Congress and middle school pupils, talked from the Roosevelt Room of the White House to astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS).