

## **FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MARCH 2009**

### **85 Years Ago – 1924**

March 1: Donald K. (Deke) Slayton born, Sparta, WI.

### **75 Years Ago - 1934**

March 9: Yuri Gagarin born, Gzhast, Rayon, Smolensk Oblast, USSR.

### **50 Years Ago – 1959**

March 3: Pioneer 4 (Juno II AM-14) launched, 12:10 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First U.S. sun-orbiter, a US-IGY space probe. First successful flyby of the Moon.

March 10: First captive flight of X-15, Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRF), CA.

### **40 Years Ago – 1969**

March 3-13: Apollo 9 launched by Saturn V (SA-504), 11:00 a.m., EST, KSC, astronauts James A. McDivitt, David R. Scott, and Russell L. Schweickart, into earth orbit.

First crew assisted flight test of lunar module.

First launch of complete Apollo configuration [Saturn V vehicle, CSM, and LM].

First docking in space of CSM and LM.

First firing of LM ascent and descent engines in space with astronauts aboard.

First separation, rendezvous & redocking of two astronaut occupied spacecraft.

First EVA by an astronaut completely free of spaceship life support equipment (Schweickart, LM Pilot).

First mission in which the use of names for spacecraft was again authorized.

First test of Portable Life Support System in space.

March 21: Thomas O. Paine took office as third NASA Administrator.

March 26: Meteor 1 launched by Vostok rocket, 1229 UTC, Plesetsk, USSR.

March 27: Mariner 7 launched by Atlas-Centaur, 5:22 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

### **35 Years Ago - 1974**

March 5: First X-24B supersonic flight, John A. Manke pilot, Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF), CA.

March 8: Miranda (UK X-4) launched by Scout, 10:22 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

March 29: Mariner 10, First Mercury Flyby.

### **30 Years Ago - 1979**

March 5: Voyager 1 passes Jupiter, at 278,000 km, returns photos and data.

March 8: Space Shuttle *Columbia* delivered to NASA, EAFB, CA from Palmdale, CA.

March 24: First time a Space Shuttle was transported to its launching base when *Columbia* arrived at Kennedy Space Center.

### **25 Years Ago - 1984**

March 1: Landsat 5 launched by Delta, 9:59 a.m., PST, WSMC. UOSAT-2 secondary payload.

March 5: Intelsat 5 F8 launched by Ariane 1 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana at 00:50:03 UTC.

### **20 Years Ago - 1989**

March 13: STS-29 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched, 9:57 a.m., EST, KSC. Crew: Michael L. Coats, John E. Blaha, James P. Bagian, James F. Buchli, and Robert C. Springer. Launched TDRS-4 same day. Landed Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), CA, March 18, at 9:36 a.m., EST. Mission duration: 4 days, 23 hours, and 39 minutes. The deployment of TDRS-4 marked completion of the TDRS system. In June the system was declared operational following completion of a switchover involving TDRS 1, which was moved to 79 degrees west longitude, to serve as backup to TDRS-4 and TDRS-3, also known as TDRS-East and TDRS-west, respectively.

### **15 Years Ago – 1994**

March 4: STS-62 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched, 8:53 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: John H. Casper, Andrew M. Allen, Pierre J. Thuot, Charles D. Gemar, and Marsha S. Ivins. Carried United States Microgravity Payload (USMP-2) and Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology (OAST-2). Landed KSC, March 18 at 8:10 a.m. EST. Mission time: 13 days, 23 hours, and 17 minutes.

### **10 Years Ago – 1999**

March 5: WIRE (Wide-field InfraRed Explorer), designed to measure infrared sources, was launched by a Pegasus-XL rocket released from a L-1011 cargo plane off the coast of Vandenberg AFB at 03:00 UTC. Soon after launch the payload deployed prematurely and become inoperable.

March 28: Sea Launch Demo, a multinational, geosynchronous dummy "spacecraft" was launched at 01:30 UTC by a Zenit 3L rocket from the floating platform, Odyssey (which was an oil drilling platform in the North Sea) on true-equatorial Pacific Ocean at 01:30 UTC. The Sea Launch Company is jointly owned by private companies (Russian Energia 25%, American Boeing 40%, Norwegian Kvarner 20%, and Ukrainian Yuzhnoe/Yuzhmash 15%)

### **5 Years Ago – 2004**

March 2: Rosetta, a European (ESA) cometary probe was launched by an Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou in French Guiana at 07:17 UTC. Sometime in 2014, it will orbit around a comet named 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko after releasing a lander named Philae.