

## **FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MARCH 2010**

### **95 Years Ago – 1915**

March 3: The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the predecessor agency to NASA was founded "...to supervise and direct the scientific study of problems of flight, with a view to their practical solution..."

### **50 Years Ago - 1960**

March 11: Pioneer 5 launched , 8:00 a.m., EST, on a Thor-Able from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 15: Goddard Space Flight Center named by Presidential Executive Order for Dr. Robert H. Goddard, Washington, D.C.

March 23: An Explorer S-46 satellite failed to orbit using a Juno 2 launch vehicle at 8:35 a.m., EST, from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 25: First flight of Joseph A. Walker, X-15 pilot, Dryden Flight Research Facility (FRF), CA.

### **45 Years Ago - 1965**

March 9: First launch of eight satellites on a single launch vehicle (Thor Agena-D) from Vandenberg, AFB.

March 18: Voskhod 2 launched. Cosmonauts Pavel I. Belyayev and Aleksei A. Leonov. 0658 UTC, Baikonur. USSR. First two-man crew. Aleksei Leonov performed first spacewalk.

March 21: Ranger 9 launched. 4:37 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Impacted on the moon 9:08 a.m., EST, March 23, after taking 5,814 close-up photographs of the lunar surface.

March 23: Gemini Titan 3, with astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John W. Young aboard. Launched 9:24 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First manned Gemini flight for 3 orbits of the earth lasting 4 hours and 53 minutes. First person to eat a corned beef sandwich in space: Virgil Grissom. First U.S. two-person flight. First manual maneuvers in orbit.

### **40 Years Ago – 1970**

March 5: First NASA flight in a YF-12A with Fitzhugh Fulton as pilot.

March 10: French Dial-Mika and German Dial-Wika satellites launched on a Diamant launch vehicle from Kourou, French Guiana.

March 19: First X-24A powered flight, Jerauld R. Gentry pilot, Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF), CA.

March 20: NATO 1 launched, 6:52 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 31: Explorer 1 reentered the earth's atmosphere, having travelled 2.67 billion kilometers (1.66 billion miles) and made 58,408 revolutions of the earth during its 13-year lifetime.

### **35 Years Ago – 1975**

March 16: Mariner 10 made its last and closest flyby of Mercury, discovering that it has an intrinsic magnetic field.

### **30 Years Ago – 1980**

March 7: Research pilot John Manke rested the Gossamer Albatross to collect data on large lightweight craft.

### **25 Years Ago – 1985**

March 22: Intelsat VA F-10 launched, 6:55 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla..

### **20 Years Ago – 1990**

March 26: GPS 7 also known as Navstar 2-7 (block 2 spacecraft) launched, part of the Global Positioning Satellite System.

### **15 Years Ago – 1995**

March 2: STS-67 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched from KSC at 1:38 a.m. EST. Crew: Stephen S. Oswald, William G. Gregory, Tamara E. Jernigan, John M. Grunsfeld, Wendy B. Lawrence, Ronald A. Parise, and Samuel T. Durrance. Ultraviolet Astronomy (ASTRO) 2 Telescope observations taken. Mounted on Instrument Pointing System on Spacelab pallet in cargo bay. Landed at Edwards AFB, CA, March 18 at 4:47 p.m. EST. Mission Duration: 16 days, 15 hours, 8 minutes.

March 14: Norman Thagard became first American astronaut to be launched on a Russian or Soviet rocket as a member of the Soyuz TM-21 crew and the first American to stay aboard the Mir space station. Crew also included Gennady Strekalov and Vladimir Dezhurov. Launched aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 06:11:34 UTC.

### **10 Years Ago – 2000**

March 25: IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration), an American magnetospheric science spacecraft, launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB at 20:35 UTC.