

# **FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MAY 2012**

## **85 Years Ago - 1927**

May 20-21: Charles A. Lindbergh made the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Lucky Lindy's single-seat, single engine Ryan monoplane named the *Spirit of St. Louis* began the flight from Roosevelt Field, NY and landed at Le Bourget Air Field, outside of Paris, France. This singular event was a major factor in awakening the nation to the full potential of aviation.

## **75 Years Ago - 1937**

May: Peenemünde opened under the Command of, then, Captain Dr. Walter Dornberger.

## **65 Years Ago - 1947**

May 29: In what may be the sole example of the US firing a missile at Mexico in peacetime, happened when a modified V-2 was launched by the United States from the White Sands Proving Grounds, NM. and flew in the wrong direction! It landed 1-1/2 miles south of Juarez, Mexico!

## **60 Years Ago - 1952**

May 16: The International Geophysical Year (IGY) was created.

May 22: Two monkeys and two mice were carried 36 miles aloft by an Aerobee sounding rocket. The live cargo was recovered unharmed. White Sands Proving Grounds, NM.

## **55 Years Ago - 1957**

May 31: Army's Jupiter IRBM was successfully fired 1,500 miles downrange, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

## **50 Years Ago - 1962**

May 24: Mercury Atlas 7/Aurora 7 (MA-7) M. Scott Carpenter astronaut pilot was launched at 8:45 a.m., EDT, for three orbits of the Earth, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

## **45 Years Ago - 1967**

May 4: Lunar Orbiter 4 was launched by Atlas Agena, 6:25 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

May 5: Ariel 3 launched by Scout, 12:00 p.m., Vandenberg AFB.

May 24: Explorer 34 (IMP-F) launched by Thor Delta, 10:06 a.m. EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

May 29: ESRO II-A launched by Scout, failed to orbit, 10:06 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

## **40 Years Ago - 1972**

May 24: U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and USSR Premier Aleksey N. Kosygin signed an agreement for cooperation in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes and included the docking in space of US/USSR spacecraft in 1975. Moscow, USSR.

May 25: The first flight of the F-8 (Modified F-8C Crusader aircraft) "digital-fly-by-wire," piloted by Gary E. Krier, Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC), CA.

## **35 Years Ago - 1977**

May 26: Launch of Intelsat 4A-F4 at 5:47:00 EDT by Atlas Centaur from Cape Canaveral.

### **30 Years Ago - 1982**

May 11: First supersonic flight of the HIMAT aircraft, Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC), CA.

May 13: USSR launches Soyuz T-5 at 09:58:00 UTC aboard Soyuz rocket, a Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya, from Baikonur. Cosmonauts: Anatoli N. Berezovoy and Valentin V. Lebedev. Ferry flight to Salyut-7 space station.

### **25 Years Ago - 1987**

May 15: First flight of the Energia rocket carrying the Polyus satellite from Baikonur. Failed to reach orbit. Energia rocket would launch the USSR's space shuttle, Buran.

### **20 Years Ago - 1992**

May 7: STS-49 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched, 7:40 p.m., EDT, KSC. Crew: Daniel C. Brandenstein, Kevin P. Chilton, Richard J. Hieb, Bruce E. Melnick, Pierre J. Thuot, Kathryn C. Thornton, and Thomas D. Akers. Rendezvoused, repaired, and reboosted Intelsat VI communications satellite. Among the firsts on this mission were: First EVA involving three astronauts and first use of a drag chute during a shuttle landing. Landed May 16, 4:57 p.m., EDT, Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), CA. Mission Duration 8 days, 21 hours, and 17 minutes.

### **15 Years Ago - 1997**

May 15: STS-84 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched 4:07 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: Charles J. Precourt, Eileen M. Collins, C. Michael Foale, Carlos I. Noriega, Edward T. Lu, Jean-Francois Clervoy (France), and Elena V. Kondakova (Russia). 6th Shuttle/Mir docking mission. Landed May 24, 9:27 a.m., EDT at KSC. Mission Duration: 9 days, 5 hours, and 20 minutes.

### **10 Years Ago - 2002**

May 4: Aqua (previously named EOS PM-1) launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB at 05:54 a.m. EDT to study the global water cycle in the oceans, ice caps, land masses and the atmosphere.

### **5 Years Ago - 2007**

May: NASA and 13 space agencies from around the world released the framework for a global exploration strategy. The document, titled "The Global Exploration Strategy: The Framework for Coordination," reflects a shared vision of space exploration focused on solar system destinations where humans may someday live and work.