FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JULY 2019

95 Years Ago – 1924
July 1: Dr. George W. Lewis appointed Director of Aeronautical Research of NACA, a post he held until 1947.

90 Years Ago - 1929
July 17: Liquid-fueled rocket fired by Dr. Robert Goddard, Auburn, MA. Carried small camera, thermometer, and barometer. Flight generated much "moon rocket" publicity.

80 Years Ago - 1939
July 1: Rocket Research Project formed under Dr. Theodore von Kármán at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA. This facility later became the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

75 Years Ago - 1944

65 Years Ago - 1954
July 24: Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) transmitted first voice Earth-to-Earth messages using the moon as a reflector from Stump Neck, MD.

60 Years Ago - 1959
July 16: Explorer satellite launched by Juno 2, destroyed by the Range Safety Officer, after 5 ½ seconds of flight, 13:38, EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

55 Years Ago - 1964
July 20: SERT-1 (Space Electric Rocket Test) suborbital test of electron bombardment ion engines, launched, 5:53 a.m., EDT, Wallops Flight Facility (WFF).

July 28: Ranger 7 launched by Atlas Agena, 12:50 EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Sends back to Earth 4,316 close-up images of the Moon before it impacts on the surface, July 31, at 9:26 a.m., EDT.

50 Years Ago – 1969
July 13: Luna 15 launched by a Proton K rocket from Baikonur at 02:54:42 UTC. Impacted the Moon on July 21.


July 20: First Manned Lunar Landing. Apollo 11 Lunar Module Eagle lands on the moon, while Columbia orbits the moon.

July 26: Intelsat 3 F5 launched by Thor Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral at 02:06 UTC.

July 29: Mariner 6 transmitted first close-up photos of Mars to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA before July 31 Mars flyby.
45 Years Ago - 1974

July 16: Aeros 2 launched by Scout, 4:51 a.m., PDT, Vandenberg AFB.

40 Years Ago - 1979
July 9: Voyager 2, Jupiter Flyby.

July 11: Skylab re-entered Earth's atmosphere and impacted Earth's surface. The debris dispersion area stretched from the Southeastern Indian Ocean across a sparsely populated section of Western Australia.

July 24: XV-15 demonstrated first in-flight transition from helicopter to aircraft mode, Arlington, TX. This was a joint program of the Ames Research Laboratory and the U.S. Army Research and Technology Laboratories for a proof-of-concept program.

July 24: Research pilot Thomas McMurry conducted the first flight of a KC-135 jet, with winglets, to demonstrate fuel efficiency.

35 Years Ago – 1984
July 17: Soyuz T-12 launched on Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 17:40:54 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut 7 space station. Crew: Vladimir A. Dzhanibekov; Svetlana Y.Savitskaya; Igor P.Volk.

July 25: Svetlana Savitskaya became first woman to spacewalk during Russian Soyuz T-12 mission launched July 18.

30 Years Ago – 1989
July 1: Richard H. Truly became NASA's eighth administrator. A former astronaut, he headed NASA's Office of Space Flight for almost 3-1/2 years.

July 20: President George H. W. Bush remarks on the 20th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing given on the steps of the National Air and Space Museum.

25 Years Ago – 1994
During July: Researchers using the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) announced the confirmation of a critical tenet of the Big Bang theory -- the presence of helium in the early universe.


July 8: STS-65 (Space Shuttle Columbia) launched, 12:43 p.m., EDT, from KSC. Crew: Robert D. Cabana, James D. Halsell, Richard J. Hieb, Carl E. Walz, Leroy Chiao, Donald A. Thomas, and Chiaki Naito-Mukai. Marked second flight of International Microgravity Laboratory (IML-2), carrying more than twice the number of experiments and facilities as IML-1. First Japanese woman to fly in space [C. Naito-Mukai]; she also set record for longest flight to date by female astronaut. First Japanese to fly in space twice. [C.Mukai]. First time liftoff and re-entry as experienced from crew cabin captured on tape Landed July 23 at 6:38 a.m. EDT at KSC. Mission Duration: 14 days, 17 hours, 55 minutes.

July 8: Panamsat 2 (Intelsat 2) launched by an Ariane 44L rocket from Kourou, French Guiana at 23:05 UTC.

20 Years Ago – 1999
July 20: Retrieval of Liberty Bell 7 spacecraft from Atlantic Ocean floor 90 miles northeast of Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas.

July 23: STS-93 (Space Shuttle Columbia) launched, 12:31 a.m. EDT from KSC. Crew: Eileen M. Collins, Jeffrey S. Ashby, Steven A. Hawley, Catherine G. Coleman, and Michel Tognini (France). On STS-93, Eileen Collins became the first woman to command a Space Shuttle mission. Deployed the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF). Renamed Chandra, it is the most sophisticated X-ray observatory ever built. Landed July 27 at 11:20 p.m. EDT, KSC. Mission duration: 4 days, 22 hours 50 minutes.

July 31: Lunar Prospector impacts Moon 5:52 EDT in a permanently shadowed area of a crater near the lunar south pole. It was hoped that the impact would liberate water vapor from the suspected ice deposits in the crater and that the plume would be detectable from Earth. However, no plume was observed.

15 Years Ago – 2004
July 1: Cassini-Huygens became the first spacecraft to go into orbit around Saturn.

July 15: The Aura spacecraft was launched aboard a Delta 2 from the Vandenberg AFB at 10:02 UTC. Its instruments examine Earth’s rate of climate change, ozone, and pollution.

10 Years Ago – 2009
July 15: STS 127 (Space Shuttle Endeavour) launched 6:03 EDT from KSC. Crew: Mark Polansky, Doug Hurley, Dave Wolf, Christopher Cassidy, Julie Payette, Tom Marshburn and Tim Kopra. Landed July 31 at 10:48 a.m. EDT, KSC. Mission Duration: 15 days, 16 hours, 45 minutes. The primary objective of this 16 day mission was to install the final components of the Japanese Kibo module to the ISS.

July 15: Charles Frank Bolden, Jr., was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 12th NASA Administrator.

5 Years Ago – 2014
July 2: Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO)-2 — a copy of a satellite destroyed in a launch mishap in 2009 — reached orbit aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta 2 7320 launch vehicle launched at 5:56 a.m. EDT or 09:56:00 UTC from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.