FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JULY 2021

60 Years Ago - 1961
July 7: Discoverer 26 launched by Thor Agena, 7:32 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

July 12: Tiros 3 launched by Thor Delta, 6:25 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

July 12: Midas 3 launched by Atlas, 8:12 a.m., PDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

July 21: Mercury-Redstone 4 (MR-4) named Liberty Bell 7, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, second suborbital flight for the U.S., 8:20 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Space capsule sank in Atlantic after successful landing.

55 Years Ago - 1966
July 1: Explorer 33 launched by Delta, 12:02 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

July 5: Saturn rocket (SA-203) launched, orbital test, 9:53 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

July 6: Proton 3 launched, 1258 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

July 12: First M2-F2 flight, pilot Milton Thompson, DFRF, CA.

July 18: Gemini 10 (GTA-10 Gemini Titan) launched, with crew composed of John W. Young and Michael Collins, from Cape Canaveral, Fla, 5:20 p.m., EST. First dual rendezvous (Gemini 10 with Agena 10, then Agena 8).

50 years Ago - 1971
July 8: Solrad 10 (Explorer 44) launched by Scout, 6:58 p.m., EDT, Wallops, VA.

July 26: Apollo 15 launched with crew of David R. Scott, James B. Irwin, and Alfred M. Worden, carried lunar rover as payload, also infamous postal covers. Took off from Kennedy Space Center, 9:34 a.m., EDT. Also launched The Apollo 15 subsatellite (PFS-1) into lunar orbit.

45 Years Ago - 1976
July 1: The National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, officially opens to the public.

July 8: Palapa 1 launched by Delta, 7:31 p.m. EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

July 20: Viking 1 lands on Mars, becoming the first successful operational spacecraft to land there, 5:12 a.m., PDT.

40 Years Ago - 1981
July 10: James M. Beggs took office as sixth NASA Administrator.

30 Years Ago – 1991
July 15: Research pilot Edward Schneider flew the F/A–18 High Angle-of-Attach Research Vehicle (HARV), with thrust-vectoring paddles, for repair and reboost.

25 Years Ago – 1996
July 2: TOMS-EP (Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer-Earth Probe) spacecraft launched by a Pegasus XL rocket from an L-1011 airplane over southern California at 00:48 UTC. Intended to complement ADEOS-TOMS to monitor global ozone distribution and measure sulfur dioxide from volcanic activity.
20 Years Ago – 2001
July 12: STS-104 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) launched 5:04 a.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: Steven W. Lindsey, Charles O. Hobaugh, Michael L. Gernhardt, James F. Reilly, and Janet L. Kavandi. International Space Station Flight 7A. Delivered the ISS Airlock, and docked with the ISS at 11:08 p.m. EDT on July 13. Landed July 24, 11:39 p.m. EDT, KSC. Mission Duration: 12 days, 18 hours, 36 minutes.

15 Years Ago – 2006
July 4: STS-121 (Space Shuttle Discovery) launched 2:38 p.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: Stephanie D. Wilson, Michael E. Fossum, Steven W. Lindsey; commander, Piers J. Sellers; mission specialist, Mark E. Kelly, pilot; Thomas Reiter of Germany with the European Space Agency and Lisa M. Nowak. International Space Station Flight ULF1.1. Completed the return-to-flight objectives by flying an improved external tank and testing on-orbit shuttle repair procedures, and preparing the International Space Station for future assembly. Landed at KSC, July 17 at 9:14 a.m. EDT. Mission Duration: 12 days, 18 hours, 37 minutes.

July 12: Genesis 1, an inflatable test module was launched by a Dnepr rocket (a converted ICBM, known as SS-18 Satan) at 8:53 a.m. EDT from ISC Kosmotras Space and Missile Complex, Russia. This module designed by space tourism company Bigelow Aerospace is the first in a series designed to provide a platform for a space hotel.

10 Years Ago – 2011
July 8: STS 135 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) launched 11:29 a.m. EDT, KSC. It docked with the International Space Station’s (ISS) Harmony module on July 10. Crew: Chris Ferguson, Doug Hurley; Rex Walheim and Sandy Magnus. It was the 135th and final Space Shuttle mission. The mission’s primary cargo was the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module (MPLM) Raffaello and a Lightweight Multi-Purpose Carrier (LMC).

July 15: Dawn became the first probe to enter orbit around an object in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, the asteroid Vesta.

5 Years Ago – 2016
July 4: After an almost five-year journey to the solar system’s largest planet, NASA's Juno spacecraft successfully entered Jupiter’s orbit during a 35-minute engine burn. Confirmation that the burn had completed was received on Earth at 8:53 p.m. PDT (11:53 p.m. EDT).

July 7: Soyuz MS-01 launched at 01:36:00 UTC by Soyuz FG from Tyuratam (Baikonur Cosmodrome), Kazakhstan. Crew: The MS variant is the last in a series of planned upgrades for the veteran Soyuz vehicle of the Russian Federal Space Agency. NASA astronaut Kate Rubins, cosmonaut Anatoly Ivanishin of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, and astronaut Takuya Onishi of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). (Expedition 48). Installed International Docking Adapters for future commercial vehicles.