**FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MAY 2018**

**85 Years Ago - 1933**
May 14: The American Interplanetary Society successfully launched its Rocket No. 2 in Staten Island, N.Y. The rocket achieved a 250-ft altitude in only two seconds.

**70 Years Ago - 1948**
May 13: First Bumper Wac fired, first two stage rocket launched in western hemisphere. Rocket reached an altitude of 69.7 miles, officially into outer space. White Sands Proving Ground (WSPG), NM.

**60 Years Ago - 1958**

May 15: Sputnik 3 launched by Molniya rocket at 7:12 UTC, from Baikonur. Satellite was an orbiting geophysical observatory used to measure the pressure and composition of Earth’s upper atmosphere.

**55 Years Ago – 1963**
May 3: First Project Apollo landing system drop test. Drop of boilerplate spacecraft was successful.

May 7: Telstar 2 launched by Atlas Agena at 7:38 a.m., EDT from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Its primary function was as a communications satellite; however, it also carried an experiment to measure radiation from the Van Allen radiation belts. One of the first satellites to feature a “hitchhiker” experiment.

May 15: Mercury/Atlas-9 (Faith 7) launched, manned by astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, at 8:04 a.m., EST from Cape Canaveral, Fla. First U.S. human space flight to remain in orbit for more than 24 hrs. First live television broadcast from a U.S. spacecraft.

May 16: ESRO-2 (or 2B or IRIS) launched by Scout from Vandenberg AFB, CA at 6:09 p.m.PDT. Launched in cooperation with US Orbiting Solar Observatory (OSO) satellite series.

**50 Years Ago – 1968**
May 18: Nimbus B meteorological R and D satellite launch using a Thor-Agena from Vandenberg AFB, CA at 5 p.m. PDT. First NASA launch using long-tank Thor-Agena Destroyed by range safety officer after rocket malfunction.

May 23: Echo 1, the world’s first passive communications satellite, reenters Earth’s atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean.

**45 Years Ago - 1973**
May 14: Skylab 1 space station launched aboard the Saturn V at 1:30 p.m., EDT, from KSC. Micrometeoroid shield tears during flight, damaging solar arrays and turning Skylab 2 into a repair mission. Last flight of a Saturn V launch vehicle.

May 25: Skylab 2 mission launched aboard Saturn 1B at 9:00 a.m., EDT, from KSC. Crew: Charles Conrad, Jr., Paul J. Weitz, and Dr. Joseph P. Kerwin. Crew successfully frees a stuck solar array and put up a thermal shielding “parasol”.

**40 Years Ago - 1978**
May 20: Pioneer Venus launched by Atlas Centaur at 9:13 a.m., EDT, from Cape Canaveral, Fla. First spacecraft placed in orbit around Venus.

May 29: President Carter signed NSC-37, a presidential directive that established a unified national policy for all US military and civilian space programs. The directive sought to broaden the role of NASA and commercial space efforts.
35 Years Ago - 1983
May 18: Pioneer 9 sends its last signal. It was an interplanetary probe launched in November 1968 and designed to last six months, Pioneer 9 returned data for fifteen years.

May 19: Intelsat V F-6 launched by Atlas Centaur, 6:26 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. This was the 100th launch managed by engineers from NASA’s Glenn Research Center (then NASA Lewis).

30 Years Ago – 1988
May 23: NASA awards the US government’s first contract for end-to-end commercial launch services. Company would be responsible for every stage of the process from management and design to operations.

25 Years Ago – 1993
May 25: NASA’s Magellan becomes the first orbiting planetary spacecraft to use aerobraking to change its orbit. During this 70-day maneuver, the spacecraft was positioned so that atmospheric drag would slow the spacecraft and change its orbit around Venus from elliptical to circular. Aerobraking thus saved precious maneuvering fuel for Magellan.

20 Years Ago – 1998
May 13: Launch of NOAA-15 (K) by a Titan 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB, CA at 15:52:04 UTC.

May 28: The Hubble Space Telescope photographs the mysterious object TMR-1C, possibly a protoplanet. Later observations reveal it to be a very young star.

15 Years Ago – 2003
May 9: Muses-C, renamed Hayabusa (meaning Falcon) after the launch, launched by an M-5 rocket from Uchinoura Space Center, Japan at 4:29 UTC. The primary scientific objective of the Hayabusa mission is to collect a surface sample of material from the small asteroid 25143 Itokawa (1998 SF36) and return the sample to Earth for analysis.

10 Years Ago – 2008
May 31: STS-124 (Space Shuttle Discovery) Launched at 5:02 p.m. EDT, from KSC. Crew: Mark E. Kelly; Kenneth T. Ham; Karen L. Nyberg; Ronald J. Garan; Michael E. Fossum; Akihiko Hoshide (Japan); Gregory E. Chamitoff; and Garrett E. Reisman. The crew installed the Japanese Logistics Module (JLM), the second segment of the Japanese research laboratory (Kibo). Landing: June 14, 11:15 a.m. EDT, KSC. Mission Duration: 13 days, 18 hours, 13 minutes.

5 Years Ago – 2013
May 28: Soyuz TMA-09M launches at 21:31 UTC from Baikonur, carrying ISS Expedition 36 crew. Soyuz crew are Fyodor Yurchikhin (Russia), Karen Nyberg (US) and Luca Parmitano (Italy). Soyuz successfully docked with ISS at 3:10 UTC, May 29.