FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MAY 2019

70 Years Ago – 1949
May 3: U.S. Navy launched Martin Viking Rocket No. 1 to altitude of 51.4 miles and a speed of 2,250 miles per hour, from the White Sands Missile Range, NM.

May 11 - President Harry Truman signed into law the act authorizing the Atlantic Missile Range, FL.

60 Years Ago - 1959
May 1: The former Beltsville Center renamed Goddard Space Flight Center in honor of Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard, rocket pioneer who achieved first launch of a liquid-propellant rocket.

May 14: The Moon was used as a relay station for intercontinental transmission. Jodrell Bank, England to Bedford, MA.

May 28: Two monkeys, "Able" and "Baker", were successfully launched atop a Jupiter rocket to an altitude of 360 miles and 1700 miles downrange. They survived in good condition. Launched from the Eastern Space Missile Center, FL (Cape Canaveral, Fla).

55 Years Ago – 1964
May 15: The Atlantic Missile Range was renamed the Eastern Test Range, FL.

May 28: SA-6 launched by Saturn 1 rocket, 11:07 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. The first flight of an unmanned Apollo spacecraft boilerplate.

50 Years Ago – 1969
May 9: HL-10 first supersonic flight, piloted by John A. Manke, Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF).

May 18: Apollo 10 launched by Saturn V, SA-505. 12:49 a.m., EDT, KSC on "the mission before THE mission." Astronauts Thomas P. Stafford; John W. Young, Jr.; and Eugene A. Cernan tested all aspects of the lunar landing mission, except the actual lunar landing.
First crew to shave in space.
First transmitted color photographs of the full Earth from a crew in space with a Westinghouse color TV camera.
First demonstration rendezvous in lunar orbit.
First burning of LM descent stage engine in lunar landing configuration.
First LM steerable antenna at lunar distances.
First LM within 15,240 meters [8 nautical miles] of lunar surface.
First in-flight test of the abort guidance system.
First in-flight use of VHF ranging.
First landing radar test in near-lunar environment.
First crew assisted navigational, visual, and photographic evaluations.
First and only Apollo launch from Launch Complex 39B.
First use of the pad's water deluge system to cool flame deflector.

May 21: Intelsat III F-4 launched by Thor Delta, 10:00 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

45 Years Ago – 1974
May 17: SMS-1 (Synchronous Meteorological Satellite-1) launched by Delta, 5:31 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First prototype geosynchronous orbit weather satellite.

May 19: Luna 22 (lunar orbiter) launched on Proton K rocket from Baikonur at 08:57 UTC.

May 30: ATS-6 (Applications Technology Satellite-6) launched by Titan III C at 9:00 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.
40 Years Ago – 1979
May 1: First time the complete Space Shuttle (Enterprise) configuration was assembled in the VAB & transported to Launch Complex 39A.

May 4: FLTSATCOM-2 launched by Atlas Centaur, 2:56 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

30 Years Ago - 1989
May 4: STS-30 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) launched from KSC at 2:46 p.m., EDT. Crew: David M. Walker, Ronald J. Grabe, Norman E. Thagard, Mary L. Cleave, and Mark C. Lee. First U.S. planetary mission in 11 years and the first deep space probe on a Space Shuttle mission [Magellan]. It was deployed to Venus. First time a general purpose computer was switched on orbit. Returned to Edwards AFB, CA, May 8th. Mission duration: 4 days, 57 minutes.


May 14: Richard H. Truly takes office as eighth NASA Administrator.

25 Years Ago – 1994
May 9: MSTI 2 (Miniature Sensor Technology Integration 2), a U.S.A. defense spacecraft, was launched at 02:47 UTC from Vandenberg AFB by the last of the now discontinued Scout series.

20 Years Ago - 1999
May 18: TERRIERS (Tomographic Experiment using Radiative Recombinative Ionspheric EUV and Radio Sources) launched at 05:09:36 UTC by a Pegasus XL rocket carried by a L-1011 cargo plane flying out of Vandenberg AFB intended to monitor the solar (not ionospheric) extreme ultraviolet (EUV) spectrum.

May 27: STS-96 (Space Shuttle Discovery) launched from KSC at 6:49 a.m., EDT as a logistics and resupply mission (2A.1) for the International Space Station. Crew: Kent V. Rominger, Rick D. Husband, Ellen Ochoa, Tamara E. Jernigan, Daniel T. Barry, Julie Payette (Canada), and Russian cosmonaut Valery I. Tokarev. Julie Payette was the first Canadian to participate in an ISS assembly mission – and the first Canadian to board the International Space Station. Landed at KSC on June 6 at 2:02 a.m., EDT. Mission duration: 9 days, 19 hours, 13 minutes.

10 Years Ago - 2009
May 11: STS-125 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) launched from KSC at 2:01 p.m. Crew: Michael J. Massimino, Michael T. Good, Gregory C. Johnson, Scott D. Altman, K. Megan McArthur, John M. Grunsfeld and Andrew J. Feustel. This is the fifth Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Mission. Atlantis’ astronauts repaired and upgraded the Hubble Space Telescope, conducting five spacewalks during their mission to extend the life of the orbiting observatory. Landed at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. on May 24, at 11:39 a.m., EDT. Mission duration: 12 days, 21 hours, 37 minutes.

May 13: Planck, and Herschel, two ESA astronomy satellites, were launched by an Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou at 13:12 UTC. Planck’s mission is to measure minute variations in the cosmic microwave background radiation. Herschel operates from an orbital position around the second Lagrangian point and makes infrared observations of stars, galaxies and star-forming regions using a 3.5 m-diameter mirror, the largest yet carried into space.

May 27: Soyuz-TMA 15 launched from Baikonur cosmodrome by a Soyuz-FG rocket at 10:34 UTC. It carried a Russian cosmonaut (Roman Romanenko), an ESA astronaut (Frank De Winne) and a Canadian Space Agency astronaut (Robert Thirsk) to the International Space Station (ISS). This mission will increase the number of crew members of the ISS to six.

May 31: The Space Shuttle program transferred Launch Pad 39B, originally used to launch Apollo lunar missions, to the Constellation Program.
5 Years Ago - 2014
May 28: Soyuz TMA-13M (Expedition 40). Launched at 19:57:00 UTC from Tyuratam (Baikonur Cosmodrome), Kazakhstan to the ISS. Delivered the ISS-Rapid Scatterometer (ISSRapidScat) to monitor ocean winds, which reused leftover hardware from the QuikScat scatterometer and demonstrated a unique way to replace an instrument aboard an aging satellite. The Vegetable Production System (Veggie) produced the first salad greens, which may be used to further human habitability in space. Crew members: Reid Wiseman (NASA), Maxim Suraev (Russian Federal Space Agency), Alexander Gerst (European Space Agency).