170 Years Ago - 1857
September 5: Konstantin E. Tsiolkovskiy born in village of Izhevsk, Spassk County. Ryazan Province. Research done in Kaluga, USSR.

75 Years Ago - 1947
September 6: V2 fired from deck of USS Midway, near Bermuda.
September 25: First launch Aerobee, White Sands, NM.

60 Years Ago – 1962
September 12: President John F. Kennedy's address at Rice University on the nation's space effort. In this well-known speech, Kennedy stated that we explore space not because it is easy but because it is difficult.
September 18: Tiros 6 launched by Thor Delta, 4:53 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.
September 28: Alouette 1 launched, by Thor Agena, 2:05 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB. Although launched by the U.S., it became the first satellite operated by a country (Canada) other than the USSR or the United States.

55 Years Ago - 1967
September 7: Biosatellite 2 launched by Thor Delta, 6:04 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.
September 8: Surveyor 5 launched by Atlas Centaur, 13:47 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.
September 28: Intelsat 2 F4 launched aboard Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral at 8:45 p.m. EDT.

50 Years Ago – 1972
September 22: Explorer 47 (IMP 7) launched by Delta, 9:20 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

45 Years Ago – 1977
September 5: Voyager 1 launched at 8:56 a.m., EDT from Cape Canaveral on a Titan IIIE-Centaur launch vehicle.
September 29: USSR launched Salyut-6 space station aboard Proton K rocket from Baikonur at 06:50 UTC.

40 Years Ago – 1982
September 27: Intelsat 5 F5 launched aboard Atlas Centaur from Cape Canaveral at 7:41p.m., EDT.

35 Years Ago – 1987
September: Ariane 3 launches Aussat-3 and Eutelsat 4 satellites from Kourou, French Guiana - significant because the Ariane rocket program had been grounded 16 months after a 1986 launch failure.

30 Years Ago - 1992
September 25: Mars Observer launched on Titan III, 1:05 pm., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Spacecraft fell silent Aug. 21, 1993, three days before it would have entered Mars orbit.
25 Years Ago – 1997
September 23: Launch of Intelsat 803 aboard Ariane 42LP rocket from Kourou, French Guiana, at 23:58:00 UTC.

September 25: STS-86 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) launched from KSC at 10:34 p.m. EDT. Crew: James D. Wetherbee, Michael J. Bloomfield, Vladimir G. Titov (Russia), Scott E. Parazynski, Jean-Loup J.M. Chrétien (France), Wendy B. Lawrence, and David A. Wolf. Docked with Mir and exchanged David Wolf for Michael Foale who returned with the rest of the crew. Landed at KSC, October 6 at 5:55 p.m., EDT. Mission Duration: 10 days, 19 hours, 20 minutes.

20 Years Ago – 2002
September 6: Launch of Intelsat 906 aboard Ariane 44L rocket from Kourou, French Guiana at 06:44:00 UTC.

15 Years Ago – 2007
September 18: WorldView 1, a U.S. commercial (DigitalGlobe) imaging satellite, was launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB at 2:35 EDT. The camera is a panchromatic imaging system featuring half-meter resolution imagery. The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) is among the primary customers.

September 14: Kaguya, a Japanese (JAXA) lunar orbiter, also known by its pre-launch name SELENE (for SELenological and ENgineering Explorer), was launched by a H-2A rocket from Tanegashima Island at 01:31 UTC. Kaguya entered lunar orbit on October 3 and subsequently deployed two subsatellites.

September 27: Dawn was launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 8:34 a.m. EDT. It is to visit two nearby asteroids, Vesta (between August 2011 and May 2012) and Ceres (by February 2015), and transmit multi-color images of them.

5 Years Ago – 2017
September 7: OTV-5 launched at 14:00:00 UTC by Falcon 9 Full Thrust from Cape Canaveral. X-37B mission carrying the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Advanced Structurally Embedded Thermal Spreader (ASETS-11) to test experimental electronics and oscillating heat pipes.

September 12: Soyuz MS-06 launched at 21:17:00 UTC by a Soyuz FG launch vehicle. Crew: Alexander Misurkin, Mark Vande Hei, and Joseph Acaba. (ISS Expedition 53). The arrival of the Expedition 53 crew marked the first long-term increase in crew size on the U.S. segment from three to four, allowing NASA to maximize time dedicated to research.

September 15: Cassini spacecraft plunged into the atmosphere of Saturn, ending its 13-year tour of the ringed planet.