



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.  
20546

Reply to Attn of: LPE

May 31, 1989

William E. Thornton, M.D.  
Astronaut Office, Code CB  
Johnson Space Center  
Houston, TX 77058

Dear Bill:

Plans to observe the 20th anniversary of the Apollo Program during the week of July 15-21, at Marshall, Kennedy, Johnson, and here in Washington, are progressing to the point where I thought a status report would be helpful.

Neil, Mike and Buzz want to make this year's observance a "celebration" of the Apollo Program, not just an anniversary of Apollo 11. Every effort is being made here and at the field centers to invite all astronauts as well as the launch, mission and program people involved in Mercury, Gemini and Apollo.

Here is what I can tell you about the various anniversary activities being planned at the centers and Washington:

#### Saturday, July 15

Marshall Space Flight Center plans a gala anniversary celebration. An Apollo/Saturn reception at 5:30 p.m. is being billed as a reunion of Apollo/Saturn engineers, scientists, flight controllers, program managers and astronauts. It will be followed by a symphony concert of space music in Shuttle Park at 7:45 p.m. and a "Footprints on the Moon" presentation in Lunar Park at 8:45 p.m. The Apollo 11 crew will be attending, but we would like to encourage other astronauts to attend also. If you can take part in the Huntsville activities, please call John Taylor, Public Affairs Officer at MSFC, at 205/544-0031. He can provide you with specific details. I know the people at Marshall would roll out the red carpet for you.

#### Sunday, July 16

The Apollo 11 crew will depart Huntsville early that morning for the trip to KSC to relive the 9:32 a.m. EDT launch of Apollo 11. Since it would be difficult for you to make both the MSFC and KSC events, you need to determine which one best fits your schedule. Like at MSFC, former astronauts who attend will be introduced and recognized for their contributions to manned space

flight. Following the conclusion of the formal program, astronauts will have a reunion with the Apollo 11 launch team. This will be followed by a civic luncheon at Cocoa Beach. Darleen Hunt at 407/867-2363 (KSC Public Affairs) is coordinating this activity.

### Wednesday, July 19

A reception sponsored by the National Space Club and the National Air and Space Museum, in cooperation with NASA, will be held Wednesday, July 19, at 8:30 p.m. at Air and Space. Two showings of the 80-minute movie, "For All Mankind" are planned. The first at 7:30 p.m. and the second at 9:30 p.m. You will be receiving an invitation to this event. Others attending include many current and former NASA officials who were involved in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs at Headquarters and the field centers. Following the 7:30 p.m. showing of "For All Mankind", a brief welcome is planned by representatives of the Air and Space Museum and the National Space Club, including introductions of all the astronauts attending. Having seen the film, I can tell you that it is very well done and appropriate for the anniversary because it covers the entire Apollo program and not just a single mission. If you plan to attend the reception, I would appreciate knowing so that we can make arrangements to bring you to a holding area at Air and Space Museum prior to the introductions. The same short program following the 7:30 showing will be repeated prior to the 9:30 performance. There are no plans for a formal or lengthy program. Attendees view the event as a reunion and appreciate spending time with colleagues.

### Thursday, July 20

The morning shows have all expressed interest in talking to the Apollo 11 crew the morning of July 20. We expect that the media covering the anniversary activities will be interested in talking to other astronauts. I know Dr. Fletcher wrote to you before leaving NASA to encourage your participation during the anniversary. It would be helpful to know if you are willing to talk to the media during the anniversary week, particularly on July 19 and 20.

A public ceremony involving Dick Truly, the Apollo 11 crew and representatives of the Smithsonian is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on the steps of Air and Space facing the mall. We believe the President or Vice President will participate. The U.S. Postmaster General will unveil a new express mail stamp during the ceremony in recognition of the anniversary.

There is also a possibility that the President will host a luncheon or barbecue at the White House following the public ceremony. His staff was not able to determine for certain whether this will happen. I guess we will know when we are asked to furnish a mailing list.

I am not able to tell you what, if anything, is planned by the Congress. I hear Senator Garn would like to schedule a showing of "For All Mankind" the afternoon of July 19, and Chairman Bob Roe, of New Jersey, is trying to arrange an event in the space committee hearing room on July 19 or 20.

Also, the National Press Club is sponsoring a "Gathering of Apollo Era Press and Broadcast Professionals and Government and Industry Public Information Specialists", between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. on July 20, in the main ballroom of the National Press Club in Washington. The organizers want to invite former astronauts and the media who covered the Apollo program. You can expect to receive a letter from Gordon Smith, the club's president, or Bill Sturdivant, who is assisting Smith.

Friday, July 21

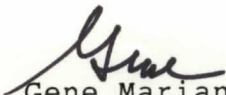
JSC has laid out a full week of activities during the anniversary week. I know many of you are involved.

The Apollo 11 crew will leave Washington the afternoon of July 20, and fly to Ellington in time to attend the "Splashdown Party" at the Gilruth Center.

The big event at JSC is Friday, July 21st with a black tie dinner at the Hyatt Regency. In case you are not familiar with the details of this dinner, please get in touch with Doug Ward at JSC at 713/473-3671. Doug can fill you in with details. I do know that they would appreciate an early confirmation if you plan to attend. Tickets are becoming scarce.

That would bring to a close the week-long observance. I hope sincerely that you can join in all or a part of the week. Meanwhile, give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gene Marianetti  
Chief, Special Events Branch  
Public Services Division

cc:  
Neil Armstrong  
Mike Collins  
Buzz Aldrin