



Dedication  
of the  
**LYNDON B. JOHNSON**  
Space Center

AUGUST 27, 1973

"Few men in our time have better understood the value of space exploration than Lyndon Johnson.

It was he, as a Senator, who wrote, introduced, and helped to enact the legislation which created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He called it the proudest legislative achievement of his years in the Congress.

As Vice President, he was Chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council in the critical, early years of exploration when the groundwork was laid, and the determination made to put a man on the moon.

Finally, as President, he oversaw the first flights of the Apollo moon landing program, and he did it in a way that led people beyond the adventure and the pride to the deeper meaning and the deeper benefits of space exploration. Speaking at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston on March 1, 1968, he summed up this Nation's purpose in outer space: 'We do not build rockets and spacecraft to fly our flag in space, or to plant our banner on the surface of the moon.

'Instead, we work and we build and we create to give all mankind its last great heritage. We are truly reaching for the stars.'

By his vision and his work and his support, Lyndon Johnson drew America up closer to the stars, and before he died he saw us reach the moon — the first great plateau along the way."

*President Richard Nixon on the occasion of signing the legislation renaming the center in honor of Lyndon B. Johnson, Key Biscayne, Florida, February 17, 1973.*

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Christopher C. Kraft, Jr.  
Director, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

## **INVOCATION**

The Right Reverend J. Milton Richardson  
Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Texas

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard, Jr.  
NASA Astronaut

## **WELCOME**

The Honorable Dolph Briscoe  
Governor of the State of Texas

## **ADDRESS**

Dr. James C. Fletcher  
NASA Administrator

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

## **BENEDICTION**

The Right Reverend Richardson



## LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

In November 1958, just one month after NASA was established, a small team designated the Space Task Group was organized and given the mission of developing a manned space flight program. From that nucleus of 36 engineers and support personnel, headed by Dr. Robert R. Gilruth, evolved NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

Today, almost 15 years later — with the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs history — the center remains in the forefront for NASA in manned space flight. The Skylab missions in progress show the great potential for man's expanded role in space as a scientific observer seeking new knowledge about the universe as well as the environment of our own Earth. At the same time, major efforts are underway at the center to accomplish an international rendezvous and docking mission with the Soviet Union in 1975 and to develop the versatile Space Shuttle system before the end of the decade.

Much of the technology that was used to land 12 astronauts on the moon now is being directed toward improving conditions here on Earth. In this area, the Johnson Space Center has been assigned a leading role in developing Earth Resources techniques, medical applications and urban systems programs.

The center and its dedicated government-contractor team continues as a national resource for seeking new frontiers and knowledge through space exploration.