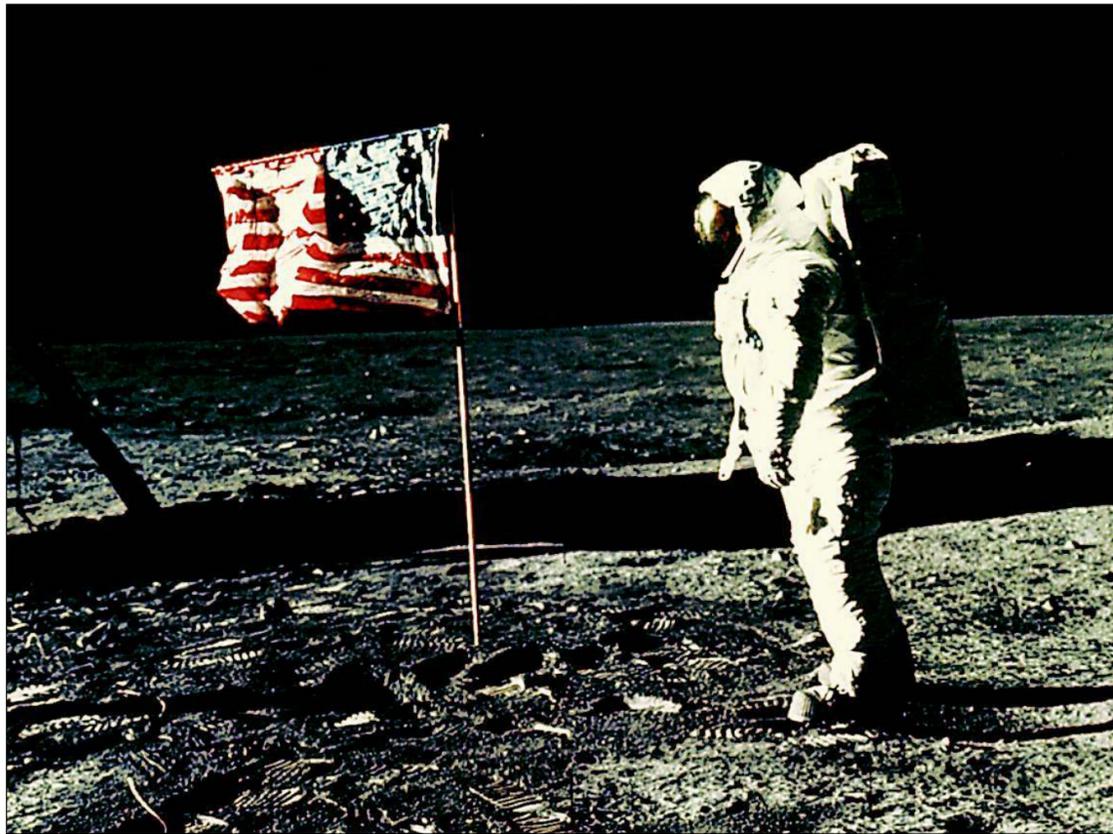


The 40th anniversary of Apollo 11



The second man to walk the moon, Buzz Aldrin planted an American flag on July 20, 1969.

Associated Press photo

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin: N.J.'s man on the moon

By DAN GROTE

For The Press, 609-272-7234

One of New Jersey's most famous sons has walked on the moon, served our country during the Korean War, had an award crafted in his image and — as if all that were not enough — guest-starred on "The Simpsons."

Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin's giant leap to the moon took place 40 years ago, on July 20, 1969. But it began with the small steps he took as a baby born Jan. 20, 1930, in Montclair, Essex County.

In between, Aldrin graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, flew missions in Korea for the Air Force, got his doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and participated in the first successful spacewalk.

Since the moon landing 40 years ago, Aldrin has kept busy as an author — lending his name to eight books, including memoirs to be released this year — guest lecturer and researcher holding multiple space-technology patents. In 1998 he founded the nonprofit ShareSpace Foundation to teach children about space.

The Garden State honored Aldrin in 2008, inducting him into the inaugural class of the New Jersey Hall of Fame, alongside honorees as diverse as Bruce Springsteen, Meryl Streep, Harriet Tubman and Albert Einstein.

Just last month, Aldrin showed his versatility again by releasing the rap single "Rocket Experience," produced by Snoop Dog.

About Explorer

This summer our Explorer pages, which appear each Monday, look at the lives and achievements of famous New Jersey residents. The Education page will return in the fall.



Apollo 11 astronauts and their spacecraft in 1969, Col. Edwin E. Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Lt. Michael Collins.

Associated Press photo

Buzz Aldrin: A Timeline

1930: Born Jan. 20 in Montclair, Essex County, to Marion Moon and Edwin Eugene Aldrin.

1946: Graduates from Montclair High School.

1951: Graduates third in his class from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York.

1963: Receives his doctorate in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1966: Participates in the world's first successful spacewalk, during the Gemini 12 mission.

1969: Participates July 20 in the first manned moon landing as part of the Apollo 11

mission, is the second man to walk on the moon, after Neil Armstrong.

1970: "First on the Moon," co-written with fellow Apollo 11 astronauts Armstrong and Michael Collins, is published by Little Brown & Co. Aldrin will eventually publish eight books.

1981: MTV launches, using images of Aldrin on the moon as part of its station identification. The images are later used to create the statue — nicknamed "Buzzy" — given to winners at the annual MTV Video Music Awards.

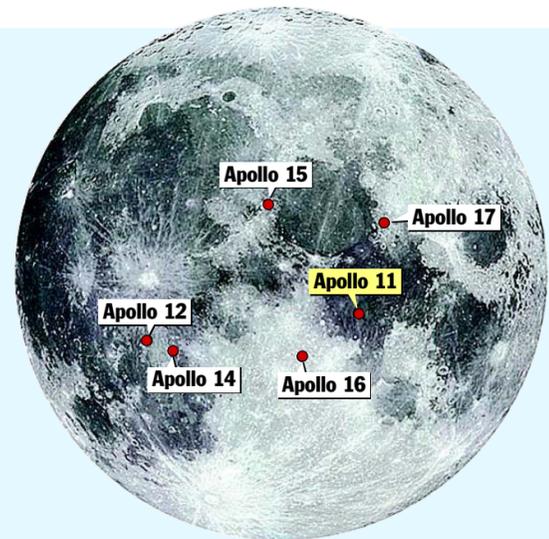
1988: Marries Lois Driggs, his current wife.

1994: Lends his voice to an episode of "The Simpsons" titled "Deep Space Homer."

1995: Disney's "Toy Story" includes an astronaut character named "Buzz Lightyear."

2008: Inducted into inaugural class of the New Jersey Hall of Fame

2009: Releases memoirs — "Magnificent Desolation."



About Apollo 11

The \$20 billion Apollo moon landing program led to six successful moon landings. The first was on July 20, 1969. Three astronauts were on the Apollo 11 mission.

Michael Collins remained in orbit around the moon while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin flew the lunar lander to the moon's surface.

Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. An automated television camera broadcast him stepping onto the lunar surface and saying, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Minutes later, Aldrin joined Armstrong on the surface. They took soil and rock samples, set up experiments and planted an American flag with a steel wire to hold it aloft in the absence of wind.

The Apollo program would send astronauts to the moon five more times. On some of those missions, astronauts used a "lunar rover" to drive across the moon's surface.

In 1970, the Apollo 13 mission nearly ended in disaster when an oxygen tank exploded in the service module on the way to the moon. The crew moved to the lunar module, using its propulsion system to set the ship on a path back to Earth.

The last humans to visit the moon were aboard Apollo 17 in 1972.

Saturn V rocket

Command module: Three seats

Service module: Fuel and rocket engine

Lunar lander

Third stage rocket: One engine

Second stage rocket: Five engines

First stage rocket: Five engines

See for yourself

- Buzz Aldrin's Web site is buzzaldrin.com
- To learn more about America's space program and see images of our solar system, visit nasa.com

MCT/Press graphic

A history of the U.S. space program

1945: The first manmade object is launched into space Feb. 24.

1957: The Soviet Union launches Sputnik — Russian for "traveler" — into orbit Oct. 4, firing the first shot in what becomes known as the space race.

1958: The first U.S. satellite, Explorer 1, is launched Jan. 31; President Dwight Eisenhower signs the National Aeronautics and Space Act into law, creating NASA.

1959: NASA introduces the first seven astronauts April 9: Scott Carpenter, Gordon

Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton.

1961: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin is the first man to orbit the Earth on April 12. Alan Shepard is the first American in space, aboard Mercury 3, on May 5. President John F. Kennedy sets a goal of landing on the moon within the decade in a speech May 25.



1962: John Glenn, left, is the first American to orbit the Earth, on Feb. 20 aboard the Friendship 7.

1965: Edward H. White II is the first American to perform a spacewalk, aboard the Gemini 4 spacecraft June 3-7.



1967: Ed White, Gus Grissom and Roger Chaffee, pictured above, die during a launch pad simulation of the Apollo I mission

Jan. 27. President Lyndon B. Johnson and British and Soviet leaders sign a treaty that declares space a demilitarized zone the same day.

1968: Apollo 8 transmits the first images of the Earth as seen from space during a mission Dec. 21-27.

1969: Apollo 11 lands successfully on the moon July 20. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin are the first two men to walk on the moon.

1970: Apollo 13 is aborted due to a midmission technical malfunction on its April 11-17 mission, but the three crewmen aboard — Jim Lovell, Jack Swigert and Fred Haise, survive on the lunar module.

1973: Skylab I, the first orbiting

U.S. laboratory, is launched May 14.

1981: The space shuttle Columbia launches April 12. It is the first airplane-like craft to fly in space.

1983: Sally K. Ride, pictured right, becomes the first U.S. woman in space with the launch of the Challenger space shuttle June 18. Guion Bluford becomes the first black astronaut Aug. 30.

1986: The space shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after liftoff, killing its seven crew members Jan. 28. Among its crew was Christa McAuliffe, who

would have been the first school-teacher in space.

1990: The space shuttle Discovery launches April 24 from Cape Canaveral, Fla., carrying the Hubble Space Telescope.

1995: Eileen M. Collins becomes the first woman pilot of an American space shuttle during a mission Feb. 3-11.

1998: John Glenn, 77, returns to space Oct. 29 aboard the shuttle Discovery, becoming the oldest person to visit space.

1999: Discovery is the first shuttle to dock with the international space station May 29.

2003: The space shuttle Columbia breaks apart during re-entry, killing its seven crew members Feb. 1.



Coming next week: Walt Whitman, often called the most influential American poet, made his home in New Jersey.

On the Web: To download this page or earlier pages, search 'explorenow' at www.PressofAtlanticCity.com

Questions: WEEK 3

1. The last manned mission to the moon, Apollo 17, left a plaque with a message of peace. If you were writing a message to beings from other planets, what would it say?
2. Buzz Aldrin was the second man to walk on the moon. Who was the first?
3. Who was the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth?

WEEK 2 WINNER: Danie - New Jersey Avenue School

Boys & Girls!

YOU CAN WIN

- Two tickets to see Walking with Dinosaurs
- VIP Courtesy Ticket Book from Gillian's Wonderland Pier
- 4-Pack of tickets from the Atlantic City Aquarium

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Read this week's EXPLORER page and answer the questions that follow. Send your answers on a separate piece of paper along with your name, address, school and grade to: **Sandy Reed - NIE, The Press of Atlantic City, 1000 W. Washington Ave., Pleasantville, NJ 08232.**

Each week, we'll draw the name of the lucky winner. It could be you! All entries must be received by noon Friday.