1 00:00:12,570 --> 00:00:17,230
this year the museum is honoring the

2 00:00:14,859 --> 00:00:18,778
40th anniversary of the Apollo 8 mission

3 00:00:17,230 --> 00:00:22,769
and the accomplishments of its crew

4 00:00:18,778 --> 00:00:25,240
Frank Borman Jim Lovell and Bill Anders

5 00:00:22,769 --> 00:00:27,129
not just because of the occasion tonight

6 00:00:25,239 --> 00:00:28,750
but I've said this repeatedly I think

7 00:00:27,129 --> 00:00:32,140
the Apollo 8 mission is one of the most

8 00:00:28,750 --> 00:00:35,079
important missions of the whole NASA

9 00:00:32,140 --> 00:00:36,730
experience and I don't say that just

10 00:00:35,079 --> 00:00:38,589
because we're here tonight it was a very

11 00:00:36,729 --> 00:00:42,128
very unusual mission about which will

12 00:00:38,590 --> 00:00:44,670
hear a lot later on the mission departed

13 00:00:42,128 --> 00:00:48,280
December 21st and returned December 28

14 00:00:44,670 --> 00:00:51,400
1968 he was the first time that humans
left the vicinity of Earth and traveled to another world and I think the things that will have will hear them describe this evening will show what faith they had in the engineers and the people they were working with and the crew and the team and the equipment and everything else and we will be hearing a great deal about the mission but let me just set the stage with a few historical facts Apollo 8 was not originally planned as a moon mission NASA's plan was to do an earth orbital mission but in September 1968 the Soviets ends on 52 pass by the
moon it carried and returned to earth a

payload of turtles wine flies and mealworms now that's quite a character

now I don't know there's a similarity between those three types of cargos and the ones that occurred later on when the U.S. sent them up or not but Borman Lovell and Anders were a step up from Turtles wine flies and mealworms there's no doubt about that and it carried when it brought them back to earth of course the USSR repeated the feat in November was on six the space race competition at land humans on the moon the goal set by
President Kennedy in 61 seem to be heating up considerably and after the successful Earth orbit mission of Apollo 7, the time seemed right for a bold or risk your mission a voyage to the moon. Reportedly even the Apollo 8 astronauts rated their chances of said no better than 50-50 they're willing to go before Apollo 8, the U.S. had flown only 17 missions in space, only 17 and only 22 different astronauts before that. Had gained space flight experience of those Apollo 8 commander Frank Borman and command module pilot Jim Lovell had flown more hours than any other.
astronauts indeed together they had more

hours than all Soviet cosmonauts

combined they flew together on Gemini 7

a two-week endurance test in which they

lived together in a cabin the size of a

Volkswagen Beetle after recovery Jim

Lovell joked I want to announce our

engagement it's my understanding to from

rumors going around that the sanitary

conditions would not have passed ocean

minimums they were ready for Apollo 8 so

too was Bill Anders William Anders

making his very first light grads with

the Naval Academy and experienced pilot
recipient of a master's degree in nuclear engineering he served as lunar module pilot for the mission unfortunately for him the mission did not carry a lunar module engineering problems had delayed its availability but then this next statement may be a little bit controversial to some of the crew beside Bill Anders but as Apollo 8 orbited the moon bill had to be content with making one of the most historic photographs of the 20th century the incomparable image of the earth rising over the lunar surface there'll be a
little contention on that perhaps the

public build-up to Apollo 8 was
tremendous a worldwide audience
anticipated the mission lost just before
the Christmas holidays the mission
ballast the tension of the space race
with a transcendent feeling that the
accomplishment was truly for all
humanity live television broadcast by
the astronauts while orbiting the moon
brought the adventure to almost a
quarter of all people living on earth by
best estimates and the very memorable
Christmas Eve scripture reading is
something that none of us had heard that

at that time I including many of you

here

will ever ever forget the success of the

mission paved the way a few months later

for Apollo 11 for neo buzz Mike going to

the moon landing of humans on the moon

fulfilling President Kennedy's challenge

to the nation so it's really my pleasure

not only to be here tonight but to look

forward to hearing some of the

recounting of what happened on Apollo 8

it's my pleasure to welcome the Apollo 8

astronauts and dr. Martin Collins

curator in the museum's division of
space history gentlemen welcome thank

maybe a place to begin here is to ask

Frank to to to give us a little bit of a

sense of how the idea for the Apollo 8

mission began on how it sort of took

shape in the months of the summer months

of 1968 Thank You Martin and thank you

all for being here John for your

generous introduction I we were assigned

to the excuse me third Apollo mission

was supposed to been a a long duration

relatively long durations exercising the

lunar module and command module and

Earth orbit out to 8,000 miles and then
in December while we were out at Downey, California going through the systems with the spacecraft, I got a call from Deke Slayton, our boss, who said, come back. We've had a change in plans and he formed me that the CIA had informed NASA that they would be probably be a Soviet attempt to go around the moon before the end of the year and they wanted to know if we could change our mission training and be able to go. I immediately said yes because I knew that Bill and Jim would have a...
you know we're dying for the chance to
do this and then we came back and and
we've had the outline of what happened
after that but interestingly enough the
the saga of Apollo 8 really should begin
of Apollo program should begin with a
fire in January of 1967 to kill three
astronauts through the whole program
into disarray and out of that out of
that terrible tragedy I'm convinced came
the the genesis of Apollo program that
was so successful part of the decision
that was made when Frank went to Houston
and Bill a man bill and I were still out
at downey wondering what happened to

Frank was the fact that the decision would go on Apollo 8 to the moon if Apollo 7 was successful so in reality that flight proved the improvements of the command module from the disastrous fire that we had in 1967 and that was the spur that allowed us to make that final decision after Apollo 7 to say yes let's go although we were training for the moon or lunar mission prior to the Apollo 7 flight and that flight was successful because Frank you know spend an awful lot of time making sure that command module was safe you
know John was awful generous and saying

how important Apollo it wasn't then and

then bill just mentioned Apollo 7 being

so important but in reality every damn

flight was important you know think

think of John Glenn sitting on top of an

ICBM really an aluminum inner tube

because it wouldn't it wouldn't hold it

without air is not correct you had to

have pressure in that thing I get a

clamp so NASA's program wasn't haphazard

it didn't just it didn't just happen it

was planned every step of the way and it

was remarkable oh that it worked I think
I honestly believe that God was shining on us from there from the very beginning we had to start learning the lunar surface of the Moon stop. The lunar surface requires the observation of various craters and this is one of interesting because we brought in people who were familiar with that to teach us some of the initial points because the mission of Apollo II was really to check the navigation and to check for suitable landing spots the flat areas the Mari of the sea that would give the people who would attempt the first landing the greatest chance of
survival and consequently our photography and looking around all those flat areas like the Sea of Tranquility which model 11 eventually landed on that was one of our missions and that was part of our training and also we had to do things that in a three-dimensional effect navigation was one of them because we are not going around the earth anymore we are going to have to test out of the navigation system on the way to the moon to say how accurate it wasn't this of course was the test flight of that