



Charles Bolden
NASA Administrator



HD
High Definition

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00:00:02,700 --> 00:00:07,390

Kennedy Space Center Bob Cabana: Now it's my pleasure to introduce our administrator,

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00:00:07,390 --> 00:00:17,720

Charlie Bolden. Charlie, come on up here.

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00:00:17,720 --> 00:00:19,600

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden: I was telling Chris Ferguson when he sat down,

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00:00:19,600 --> 00:00:24,120

I said, it's not fair and I was asking him if it was because he's from Philadelphia or what.

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00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:32,280

You know, I've been with Chris and the crew, boy, throughout the final flight and the landing and

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00:00:32,280 --> 00:00:38,650

everything else and I'm always impressed by the four of them and the way that they have carried this,

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00:00:38,650 --> 00:00:46,570

uh, it's not a burden but it's an awesome responsibility to be the representatives of the space program as

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00:00:46,570 --> 00:00:51,950

the final crew to fly a vehicle in a program and they have done it incredibly well and

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00:00:51,950 --> 00:00:57,360

Chris is always so eloquent when he talks. Bob is so eloquent when he talks

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00:00:57,360 --> 00:00:59,900

and then I come up here with notes.

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00:00:59,900 --> 00:01:07,050

But I have to because I'm not quite as suave and debonair as are they. I do want to thank the Merritt

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00:01:07,050 --> 00:01:16,040

Island High School Color Guard and the band and the others over there and Sierra,

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00:01:16,040 --> 00:01:22,860

you were awesome. Let me tell you, the national anthem is hard.

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00:01:22,860 --> 00:01:30,310

Most professionals who try it mess it up. You were beautiful today and I thank you for honoring us by

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00:01:30,310 --> 00:01:33,900

singing that.

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00:01:33,900 --> 00:01:37,820

Bob, thank you very much for the introduction and thanks for letting me be a part of this program,

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00:01:37,820 --> 00:01:43,520

it's just wonderful to be back here at KSC and to be with the KSC workforce.

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00:01:43,520 --> 00:01:47,960

And as I look out and as I had an opportunity to talk to a lot of you this morning,

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00:01:47,960 --> 00:01:53,470

because we were out here at like 6 o'clock because they were doing a brief and rolling out at 6:30,

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00:01:53,470 --> 00:02:00,120

it's really special to be here with you and my old friend Atlantis. I know there's Dave Leestma,

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00:02:00,120 --> 00:02:03,570

I was trying to, my eyes aren't as good as they used to be even with glasses,

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00:02:03,570 --> 00:02:09,560

I know Dave Leestma's over there and I'm not calling names, but I was looking for my crew members who

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00:02:09,560 --> 00:02:14,830

were with me on Atlantis and there's somebody back there and all that, it's great to be here.

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00:02:14,830 --> 00:02:20,940

Dave and I were, we were among the crew and the backups who had the luxury of celebrating the

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00:02:20,940 --> 00:02:26,760

anniversary of the, the 20th anniversary of STS-45 which was my single flight on Atlantis and we were in

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00:02:26,760 --> 00:02:32,730

Brussels, Belgium and Atlantis was the focus of space week in Belgium.

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00:02:32,730 --> 00:02:38,910

I tell you that only because I want you to recognize the significance that the shuttle program has had and

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00:02:38,910 --> 00:02:45,440

will continue to have and that was not about history, that program was about the future in Belgium,

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00:02:45,440 --> 00:02:52,910

in another country where they see what we started with shuttle and they're just hopeful that we won't give

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00:02:52,910 --> 00:02:55,820

up and that we'll continue.

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00:02:55,820 --> 00:03:01,120

Bo, I want to thank you for being here, Chris, I've already said how much I appreciate your being here.

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I want to let everybody know something. You know, today is a historic day.

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00:03:05,200 --> 00:03:12,810

It's an incredibly historic day. But I don't preside over an agency that's in the history business,

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00:03:12,810 --> 00:03:16,080

that's not what NASA does. We're not a history organization.

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00:03:16,080 --> 00:03:20,940

We're in the business of creating the future and we're in the business of taking science fiction and turning

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00:03:20,940 --> 00:03:26,250

it into science fact. And I think most of you here realize that. That's what we do.

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00:03:26,250 --> 00:03:30,380

We take things that people say are impossible and we make them possible.

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00:03:30,380 --> 00:03:39,260

We dazzle people at the way we do it. It's always fun to come down here because this is one place in the

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00:03:39,260 --> 00:03:48,120

world where you guys and girls take something, people say it cannot be done, and you just go do it.

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00:03:48,120 --> 00:03:54,850

And the problem with you, is you make it look too easy. You know, you just make it look too easy.

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00:03:54,850 --> 00:04:00,400

What we do is not easy, what we do is incredibly difficult and you should be very proud about what we

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00:04:00,400 --> 00:04:06,760

have done in the 30 years of the shuttle program. It's also difficult to make a transition.

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00:04:06,760 --> 00:04:11,500

Really difficult to make a transition. You know, Bo was there, I was there, there's some of us who were

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00:04:11,500 --> 00:04:18,780

there between Apollo and shuttle or if you want to really get to it, between Apollo-Soyuz and shuttle

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00:04:18,780 --> 00:04:23,310

or between Skylab and shuttle There was a break, and it was a painful break,

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00:04:23,310 --> 00:04:26,920

particularly for people who had been a part of the Apollo program.

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00:04:26,920 --> 00:04:32,780

There's some people who still don't want to let it go. But you know, it happens, that's life.

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00:04:32,780 --> 00:04:39,000

You just have to sometimes say we did great things and now we're on to greater things.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:45,340

This magnificent ship behind me is tangible representation of a great nation,

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00:04:45,340 --> 00:04:50,160

of our hopes and dreams. We couldn't be where we are, poised for tomorrow's progress,

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without the space shuttle. And there are more exciting things happening right now here at KSC

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00:04:55,950 --> 00:05:02,330

as well as around the agency. A little after a year after the shuttle retired, just this week,

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00:05:02,330 --> 00:05:06,730

we completed the first commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station.

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00:05:06,730 --> 00:05:12,380

Little company called SpaceX launched Dragon from right over there at Cape Canaveral.

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00:05:12,380 --> 00:05:16,570

It's the first of many such launches and we're well on track to once again launch

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00:05:16,570 --> 00:05:21,850

American astronauts from U.S. soil in the next few years, right here from the Kennedy Space Center.

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00:05:21,850 --> 00:05:25,900

I see Mark Cerangelo there, Chris Ferguson now represents Boeing.

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You know, these are companies that believe in the future and they believe they can make that happen

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and I think all we can do is trust them the way that we have trusted American industry from the beginning

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of time. They'll get it done, I'm excited about it.

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00:05:43,290 --> 00:05:48,220

The passion and the dedication of the KSC workforce, all of you out here,

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00:05:48,220 --> 00:05:54,270

you allowed us to proudly operate shuttle for an absolutely incredible three decades.

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00:05:54,270 --> 00:05:59,930

That same pride and dedication in today's KSC workforce will send us to new destinations like an

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00:05:59,930 --> 00:06:07,130

asteroid, Mars, once again launching from right here at Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral.

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00:06:07,130 --> 00:06:12,780

With your exceptional support, we'll restore those awe-inspiring moments of human spaceflight

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00:06:12,780 --> 00:06:18,530

for the next generation of explorers. Those students, probably right over there in that band,

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00:06:18,530 --> 00:06:26,400

or maybe even Sierra, those students who are studying right now to lead us in exploration,

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00:06:26,400 --> 00:06:33,050

in the most incredible exploration era ever. It's now NASA's honor to permanently house this magnificent

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00:06:33,050 --> 00:06:40,870

spacecraft right here, where she rose to the skies 33 times carrying 156 men and women.

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00:06:40,870 --> 00:06:47,370

She's truly a testament to American ingenuity, to the dedication and passion of this workforce and of our

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00:06:47,370 --> 00:06:52,480

nation to reach higher than ever and do what has not been done before.

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00:06:52,480 --> 00:06:57,320

The space shuttle program has been a proud achievement for our nation.

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00:06:57,320 --> 00:07:03,520

With 30 years of launching missions like Magellan and Galileo from Atlantis,

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00:07:03,520 --> 00:07:10,220

expanding our international partnerships with visits to Mir and flying crewmembers from around the world,

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00:07:10,220 --> 00:07:14,460

building the International Space Station and demonstrating that America, indeed,

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00:07:14,460 --> 00:07:20,120

the world had a new home and has a new home in low Earth orbit.

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00:07:20,120 --> 00:07:26,000

Those of us who flew Atlantis will never forget the experience as Chris talked about.

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00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:32,570

For those who made that possible here at Kennedy, by processing this amazing vehicle time and time

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00:07:32,570 --> 00:07:40,330

again to those who watched in awe as she launched and maneuvered in space, and did incredible things,

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00:07:40,330 --> 00:07:46,340

those memories, that inspiration, that passion is still yours.

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00:07:46,340 --> 00:07:51,090

America still leads the world in exploration and we're building on the many fine accomplishments of the

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00:07:51,090 --> 00:07:56,090

space shuttle program to take us where we've not gone before.

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00:07:56,090 --> 00:08:02,690

To places where our imagination and our aspiration tells us we can go if we channel the passions that

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00:08:02,690 --> 00:08:09,770

built and launched Atlantis and create a new day. Atlantis' final mission may have closed out the space

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00:08:09,770 --> 00:08:16,570

shuttle program, but the spirit created that program and built her is very much alive as we develop the

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00:08:16,570 --> 00:08:22,440

technologies and systems not only for private companies to serve our needs in low Earth orbit,

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00:08:22,440 --> 00:08:28,970

but to keep us on a road to an asteroid, to Mars and places beyond.

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00:08:28,970 --> 00:08:34,300

I want to thank all the crews here today who flew Atlantis in space.

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00:08:34,300 --> 00:08:40,040

I want to thank the workforce that successfully sent her into orbit again and again.

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00:08:40,040 --> 00:08:47,450

And I also want to thank the American public at large for making this incredible dream and achievement

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00:08:47,450 --> 00:08:50,450

possible that we all share today.

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00:08:50,450 --> 00:08:56,730

Our best days are ahead of us, with the shuttle as our tailwind. Godspeed Atlantis,

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00:08:56,730 --> 00:09:01,880

on your next mission of inspiration and motivation.

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00:09:01,880 --> 00:09:08,700

And now I'd like to ask Bob Cabana, Bo, Chris, Bill and Cheryl to join us up here on stage while we do