



1  
00:00:06,589 --> 00:00:08,750  
This Week at NASA...

2  
00:00:08,750 --> 00:00:21,031  
“Go for main engine start. We have main engine start... 2-1, booster ignition, and

3  
00:00:21,031 --> 00:00:24,400  
the final liftoff of Discovery; a tribute to the

4  
00:00:24,400 --> 00:00:28,910  
dedication, hard work and pride of America's space shuttle team. The shuttle has cleared

5  
00:00:28,910 --> 00:00:30,119  
the tower.”

6  
00:00:30,119 --> 00:00:35,760  
In the late afternoon of Feb. 24, shuttle Discovery took off on its final mission into

7  
00:00:35,760 --> 00:00:41,460  
space, to carry STS-133 crew members Commander Steven Lindsey, Pilot Eric Boe

8  
00:00:41,460 --> 00:00:47,140  
and Mission Specialists Alvin Drew, Mike Barratt, Steve Bowen and Nicole Stott to the

9  
00:00:47,140 --> 00:00:52,540  
International Space Station. This 35th shuttle mission to the ISS delivers the

10  
00:00:52,540 --> 00:00:58,350  
Permanent Multipurpose Module, the Express Logistics Carrier 4, and Robonaut 2, the

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00:00:58,350 --> 00:01:04,379

first dexterous humanoid robot in space. R2 will become a permanent station resident.

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00:01:04,379 --> 00:01:10,329

After completing STS-133, its final mission, space shuttle Discovery becomes the first

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00:01:10,329 --> 00:01:16,590

retired orbiter in the shuttle fleet. By then, 180 people will have flown aboard Discovery,

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00:01:16,590 --> 00:01:21,369

including the first female shuttle pilot and the first female shuttle commander, Eileen

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00:01:21,369 --> 00:01:26,509

Collins; the first African American spacewalker ,Bernard Harris; and the first sitting

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00:01:26,509 --> 00:01:31,429

member of Congress to fly in space, then-Senator Jake Garn of Utah.

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00:01:31,429 --> 00:01:36,990

Discovery has flown more missions than any other spacecraft, spending almost a full

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00:01:36,990 --> 00:01:38,090

year in space.

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00:01:38,090 --> 00:01:45,859

NASA and its International Space Station partners have named crew members for

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00:01:45,859 --> 00:01:51,889

missions aboard the complex that begin in 2013. Crews include: NASA astronauts

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00:01:51,889 --> 00:01:57,020

Tom Marshburn, Chris Cassidy, Karen Nyberg,

Michael Hopkins, and Rick Mastracchio

22  
00:01:57,020 --> 00:01:59,929  
-- all veteran flyers.  
This group will help comprise the Expedition

23  
00:01:59,929 --> 00:02:06,700  
35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 crews. Rounding  
out the assignments will be members of the

24  
00:02:06,700 --> 00:02:12,459  
Russian Cosmonaut Corps, the Canadian  
Space Agency, The European Space Agency , and

25  
00:02:12,459 --> 00:02:15,010  
the Japan Aerospace Exploration  
Agency.

26  
00:02:15,010 --> 00:02:18,610  
AND NOW, CENTERPIECES...

27  
00:02:18,610 --> 00:02:29,140  
“We have three fantastic gentlemen who will  
show you that you can do it all, from sports

28  
00:02:29,140 --> 00:02:32,349  
to science.”  
With that opening the crowd at a Black History

29  
00:02:32,349 --> 00:02:36,610  
Month event at the Virginia Air and  
Space Center in Hampton, Virginia was offered

30  
00:02:36,610 --> 00:02:41,209  
a rare treat:  
The chance to hear from and be inspired by

31  
00:02:41,209 --> 00:02:48,209  
an astronaut, two pro athletes, a half a  
dozen history-making Tuskegee Airmen, and

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00:02:48,209 --> 00:02:55,629

a talking robot.

First up – two-time space shuttle veteran

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00:02:55,629 --> 00:02:59,709

Leland Melvin – who was drafted after college into the National Football League.

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00:02:59,709 --> 00:03:05,319

“I played most sports, but I also studied really hard. One of the things I want tell

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00:03:05,319 --> 00:03:08,950

you is if you believe in yourself, you can do anything

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00:03:08,950 --> 00:03:12,260

you put your mind to. Do you believe that?”  
Okay

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00:03:12,260 --> 00:03:18,239

Melvin showed the kids and adults he's still got game ... in space, and on the stage.

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00:03:18,239 --> 00:03:21,760

He says playing sports helped prepare him to be an astronaut.

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00:03:21,760 --> 00:03:26,939

“Sports is all about teamwork and when you're flying with four other guys and depending

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00:03:26,939 --> 00:03:30,159

on them for your life of making sure they're flipping the right switch and you making sure

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00:03:30,159 --> 00:03:34,889

they're flipping the right switch ... you have this bond that makes you want to do the

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00:03:34,889 --> 00:03:36,349

right

thing so that everyone survives.”

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00:03:36,349 --> 00:03:40,760

The Tuskegee Airmen know a thing or two about teamwork, too. They were the

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00:03:40,760 --> 00:03:46,889

country's first black military aviators ... dating back to early World War II.

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00:03:46,889 --> 00:03:50,540

Ninety-year old Grant Williams remembers those days as if it was yesterday.

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00:03:50,540 --> 00:03:56,499

“We had hoped by going overseas to fight the war over there that things would be

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00:03:56,499 --> 00:04:02,639

different at home ... but when we came back we found the two gates that we went

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00:04:02,639 --> 00:04:09,620

through were still there, one for colored, one for white. And it took a long time even

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00:04:09,620 --> 00:04:13,310

after

that was over, after we were back home, before

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00:04:13,310 --> 00:04:21,110

anybody realized what had been accomplished. Now some 65 years later they

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00:04:21,110 --> 00:04:28,310

look at all of us as heroes and it's really

a

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00:04:28,310 --> 00:04:35,320

great feeling to realize what we have done  
to change the attitude of America.”

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00:04:35,320 --> 00:04:40,610

Organizers hope this event left the crowd  
with great feelings that whether the students

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00:04:40,610 --> 00:04:46,389

attending have dreams of being an astronaut,  
an athlete or an airman ... anything is

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00:04:46,389 --> 00:05:00,919

possible with education and effort.  
“Main engine start 4-3-2-1 and liftoff of

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00:05:00,919 --> 00:05:03,380

space shuttle Columbia to broaden our view  
of

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00:05:03,380 --> 00:05:08,949

the universe through the Hubble Space Telescope.”  
Nine years ago, on March first, 2002, space

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00:05:08,949 --> 00:05:13,690

shuttle Columbia launched for the fourth  
Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.

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00:05:13,690 --> 00:05:17,129

“Okay, I’m going to bring it in a little  
bit past you, and it looks good:”

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00:05:17,129 --> 00:05:22,440

Over 11-days, Columbia’s crew of seven rejuvenated  
Hubble. In a series of five

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00:05:22,440 --> 00:05:26,729

spacewalks, they installed new equipment that,  
among other improvements,

62  
00:05:26,729 --> 00:05:31,199  
dispensed the telescope's newly-increased  
power, and doubled the camera's coverage

63  
00:05:31,199 --> 00:05:37,889  
area with more speed and clarity. The STS-109  
crew: Commander Scott Altman, pilot

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00:05:37,889 --> 00:05:42,919  
Duane Carey, Payload Commander John Grunsfeld,  
and Mission Specialists Nancy

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00:05:42,919 --> 00:05:52,569  
Currie, James Newman, Richard Linnehan, and  
Mike Massimino.

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00:05:52,569 --> 00:05:59,020  
And, 39 years ago, on March 2, 1972, Pioneer  
10 launched on what would prove to be

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00:05:59,020 --> 00:06:04,949  
a mission lasting more than three decades!  
Pioneer 10 was the first spacecraft to travel

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00:06:04,949 --> 00:06:09,949  
through the Asteroid belt, and the first spacecraft  
to make direct observations and

69  
00:06:09,949 --> 00:06:15,960  
obtain close-up images of Jupiter and its  
moons. This historic event marked humans'

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00:06:15,960 --> 00:06:20,730  
first approach to the gas giant and opened  
the way for exploration of the outer solar

71  
00:06:20,730 --> 00:06:27,419  
system by future spacecraft like Voyager,  
Ulysses, Galileo and Cassini. After more

72

00:06:27,419 --> 00:06:33,289

than 8 billion miles traveled over more than  
30 years, Pioneer 10 sent its last signal

73

00:06:33,289 --> 00:06:37,550

to  
Earth on January 23, 2003.