



PHOTOS BY REBECCA D'ANGELO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Clockwise from above, Spike Karalekas, Lois Aldrin and Van Hipp serenade birthday boy Buzz; Buffy and Bill Cafritz at Thursday's party; Justice O'Connor shares a thought with Sen. Kennedy.

Aldrin, Over the Moon on His Birthday

Contrary to popular belief, last week was not entirely about George W. Bush—at least according to the fans of one American hero. It was **Buzz Aldrin's** week, and the president's second inauguration was merely the icing on the astronaut's cake.

"Every four years, depending on how the wind blows, I'm very happy to be here," said the right-leaning Aldrin, who celebrated his 75th birthday on Inauguration Day at an intimate gathering at the Four Seasons. It was just one stop on the party train that Aldrin and wife **Lois** rode all week long: Tuesday he accepted an honor at Florida's "W Awards"; Wednesday he was schmoozing at **Buffy Cafritz's** A-list soiree. "I'm going to try to set a record tonight," said the second man to walk on the moon. "We're going to the Convention Center after this, then the Library of Congress, maybe Air and Space for the Ohio party." We should all be so lively at 75.

The birthday bash, hosted by Aldrin pals **Van Hipp** and **Spike Karalekas**, was the starting line of Thursday's party marathon. "Hell, I wouldn't miss this!" boomed Sen. **Edward Kennedy** as he greeted Aldrin. "He's a Republican like most of the people in this room," Kennedy said later with a forgiving smile. "But he's a legend." Other well-wishers included Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor**, former ambassador to Spain

George Argyros and wife **Julia**, and **Ana Botella de Aznar**, wife of Spain's former prime minister.

"We're not going to any of the balls—been there, done that," said Cafritz, there with husband **Bill**. "But we figured 75 is really special." As the time came for town cars to whisk the merrymakers away, the 50 or so guests still sipping cocktails sang "Happy Birthday" to Aldrin. Then, it was off to the races.

"We'll be up all night," said Lois Aldrin. "I'm Superman's wife."