

CIVIL AIR PATROL

January-February 2007



volunteer

Everyday Heroes of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

SEARCH AND RESCUE

CAP's Vigilance Brings Home the Missing

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Expansion Producing Impressive Results

NCASE

National Aerospace Forum Inspires Educators

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

CAP Readies for Seismic Emergencies



'We Taught Buzz'

Astronaut Honors Educators at NCASE

Long before Buzz Aldrin kicked up moon dust with Neil Armstrong in 1969, his elementary and secondary school teachers laid the foundation for his success.

"You are the movers and shakers," the Gemini XII and Apollo XI astronaut told NCASE participants.

"This brings me back to memories of what it was like when I was in school, when I was being taught by the people who began to mold my life," he said.

In 1969 I went back to visit my hometown," he added. "We had a parade, and I guess the one thing that really sticks in my mind is the memory of that parade

Photo courtesy of NASA

'You're teaching people who have a long life in front of them. You create lasting impressions that people carry with them for the rest of their lives, and they will remember you — the teachers — who inspired them and brought them along, whether by inspiration or by example.'
Buzz Aldrin



with a car full of two or three ladies, and they had a sign that read, 'We taught Buzz.' "

"So much depends on what you're doing and what I



Photos by Jim Tynan, CAP National Headquarters

hope I'm doing," said Aldrin.

While politicians work in the present focusing on impending elections, Aldrin said teachers' influence endures for generations.

"You're teaching people who have a long life in front of them," he said. "You create lasting impressions that people carry with them for the rest of their lives, and they will remember you — the teachers — who inspired them and brought them along, whether by inspiration or by example."

"I recognize the great need to deal with the next generation ... to educate them to improve their standing in the world, as the U.S. has apparently been lagging behind in aerospace disciplines," he said.

Aldrin praised Civil Air Patrol as the ideal place for youth to learn the wonders of space.

"The Civil Air Patrol motivates youth with actual hands-on opportunities to move into aviation at its lower levels of participation," he said.

The retired Air Force colonel who flew the F-86 Sabre in the Korean War recently spent time with CAP cadets during the 2006 Team America Rocketry Competition in Virginia in May. The dedicated space enthusiast also grants interviews to cadets for *Newsday's* "Kids-day" section. ▲

LIFE OF FLIGHT

Buzz Aldrin's amazing aviation career, from flying Air Force fighter jets to piloting lunar modules, has truly taken him to infinity and beyond. His career includes:

- Flying 66 combat missions in the F-86 Sabre during the Korean War. Credited with shooting down two Russian-made MiG-15 Fagot fighter jets. Retired from Air Force as a full colonel.
- Serving as an F-100 Super Sabre flight commander in Bitburg, Germany.
- Serving as an aerial gunnery instructor at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.
- Logging 289 hours and 53 minutes in space, including 7 hours and 52 minutes in space outside a spacecraft.
- Establishing a new record for time spent outside a spacecraft in space when he worked outside Gemini XII for 5 1/2 hours on his November 1966 flight with command pilot Jim Lovell.
- Serving as lunar module pilot for the famous Apollo XI mission, the manned moon landing. On July 20, 1969, Aldrin followed Neil Armstrong onto the lunar surface and stayed outside the spacecraft for 2 hours and 15 minutes.
- Receiving numerous awards for his meritorious contributions to America as an aviator and astronaut, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Robert J. Collier Trophy, Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy and Harmon International Trophy.
- Authoring numerous books for adults — including an autobiography "Return to Earth"; "Men from Earth," about the Apollo program; two science fiction novels, "The Return" and "Encounter with Tiber"; and a children's book, "Reaching for the Moon."
- Establishing the ShareSpace Foundation in 1998, which helps provide opportunities for American citizens to enjoy space explorations.

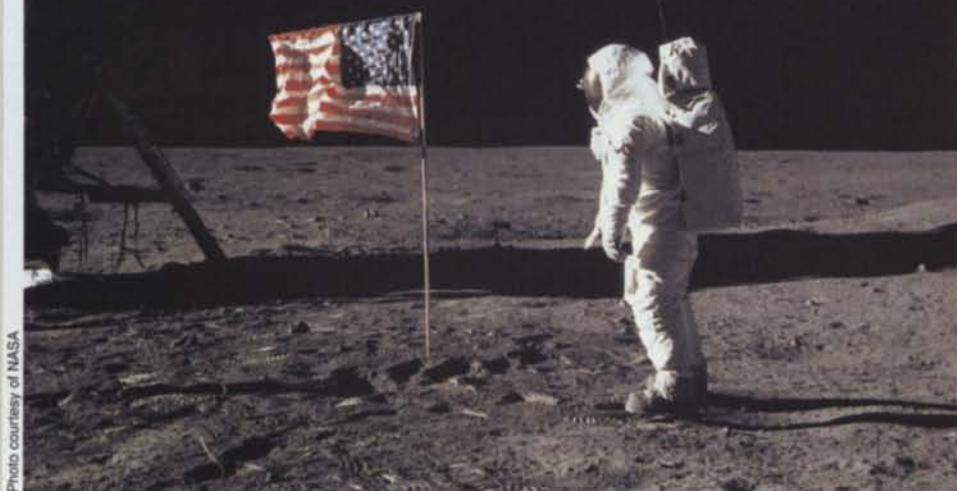


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