

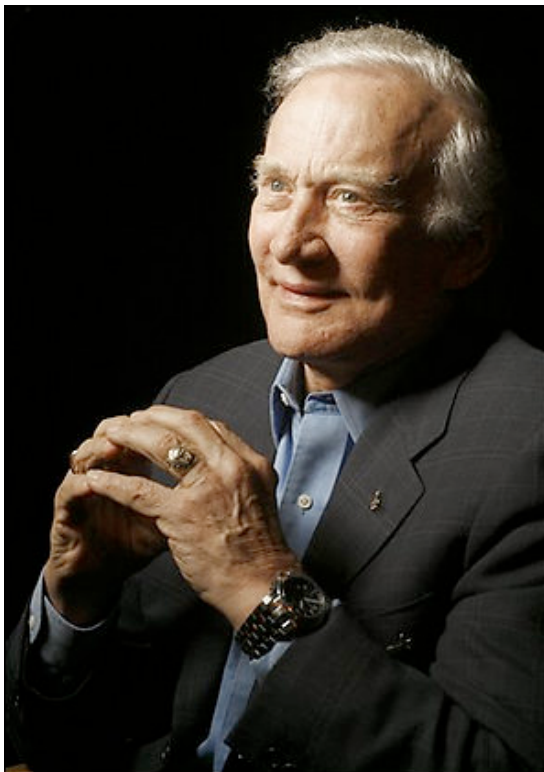
washingtonpost.com

Former Astronaut Buzz Aldrin Working on Memoir

AP Associated Press

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NEW YORK -- Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, is working on a memoir about his triumphs in space and the hard times back on Earth.



AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes
Astronaut Buzz Aldrin poses for a photo in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Tuesday, July 8, 2008.

"Magnificent Desolation: The Long Road Home from the Moon" will be published next year by Harmony Books, in time for the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing.

"From the pinnacle of Apollo, my greatest challenge became the human one

– overcoming alcoholism and living beyond depression – a challenge that required more courage and determination than going to the moon," Aldrin, 78, said in a statement issued Thursday by Harmony.

"I was 39 years of age, had achieved my grandest goal, and should have been on top of the world, but there were no roadmaps, and few signposts if any along the way that could lead me out of the quagmire into which I had tumbled. For 10 years, I floundered."

Neil Armstrong and Aldrin were on Apollo 11's lunar module, which landed on the moon on July 20, 1969.