Mr Ryan
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REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

HARMON TROPHY PRESENTATION

DECEMBER 15, 1966

WASHINGTON, D. C.

I am honored to present today the Harmon Trophy to four brave and adventurous men -- Astronauts Walter M. Schirra, Thomas P. Stafford, Frank Borman, and James Lovell, Jr.

These are truly men of our times.

They are engineers, in an age that progresses through science and engineering.

They are men of action, in a time when events march swiftly.

They have ridden the idea of space travel out more than 200 miles above the earth, and successfully rendezvoused two manned spacecraft.

Looking back to 1926, when the Harmon Trophy was first established, we can gain some perspective on this achievement. That year an American altitude record was set of 38,704 feet, or about seven and a half miles.

It is interesting to note that in that same year a somewhat more modest, but more auspicious record was set: Dr. Robert H. Goddard launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket. It traveled 184 feet in two and a half seconds.

Although Colonel Clifford Burke Harmon was a man of vision, it would be perfectly understandable if he did not mark this event and foresee its consequences. Few people did.

He did, however, correctly evaluate the importance of flight. He had two obsessions: World peace and friendship and swift world communication and transportation -- both to be furthered and brought about by the airplane.

And toward these ends he established the Harmon trophy.

In the past forty years we have made long strides toward developing the potential of winged flight, and we have in the last eight moved above the atmosphere into the airless reaches of space.

We have moved from speeds of hundreds of miles an hour to speeds of tens of thousands of miles an hour.

A single communications satellite links North America and Europe and another spans the Pacific.

These men have faced the challenge of going out into a previously unexplored and almost unknown environment. Through their efforts and those of others, and by means of the rest of the space program, our country has been able, not only to gather new and important scientific and technical data, but to put that information to everyday use.

I have already mentioned our communication satellites -- operated on an everyday basis by a private corporation, ComSat, in broadcasting and telecasting information daily across oceans and between continents.

Tiros and Nimbus weather satellites have laid the groundwork for the new ESSA satellites which are routinely giving us -- and many other nations of the world - - a better look at the weather.

By linking the nations of the world through communications satellites, and by sharing with the world the information from our weather satellites as well as the many scientific spacecraft we have launched, America has taken a long step toward the goal of world peace that Colonel Harmon envisioned.

These accomplishments have required the putting together of a program involving immensely powerful launch vehicles and highly sophisticated spacecraft. It has meant creating a program of dimensions unknown in peacetime.

Industry and government have worked together with our educational institutions to produce achievements of truly impressive proportions.

I am sure these four men that we honor here today would be the first to give credit to the work of all the people behind them.

But this is their day and rightly so. These men have tested out this program with skill and bravery. Along with the other astronauts, they have brought to fruition this highly successful two-man spacecraft program. They have contributed the valuable experience and technology needed for the advanced missions to come.

One of the main goals of Mercury, Gemini, and the coming Apollo manned flights is to develop the role of man in space. A significant duty of the astronaut is that of an investigator who responds creatively to unexpected situations.

The Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences has observed, "Man can contribute critical elements of scientific judgment and discrimination in conducting the scientific exploration ... which can never be fully supplied by instruments, however complex or sophisticated they may become."

Schirra, Stafford, Borman, and Lovell have certainly demonstrated this.

They set some records in space flight for the United States:

*They were the first four astronauts to orbit in space at the same time.

*They achieved the first close rendzvous in space, coming within one foot of each other.

*They were the first to fly formation in spacecraft.

*They were the first to use on-board radar linked to an on-board computer in chasing a real target.

*Borman and Lovell spent the longest time in space of any men to date -- 13 days, 18 hours, and 35 minutes, or twice the time required for round-trip exploration of the moon.

*In addition, Colonel Borman was the first man to sneeze in space, and Captain Schirra was the first man to render a chorus of "Jingle Bells" on the harmonica from orbit.

During these flights, the astronauts demonstrated both stamina and exceptional technical skill, completing 20 scientific experiments, including all Gemini scientific experiments. Additionally, Borman and Lovell were frequently required to make critical adjustments to the faltering spacecraft fuel cell system. Their skillful manipulating of the electrical system prevented early termination of the mission.

During an earlier Gemini 6 launch attempt, Schirra and Stafford demonstrated exceptional courage, engineering knowledge and technical skill, when their rocket engine shut down while on the Cape Kennedy launch pad. The astronauts, rather than eject from the spacecraft,

remained atop the fully pressurized rocket and correctly diagnosed and reported the malfunction to the launch team. They won the world's admiration for their split-second decision to stay with the ship rather than eject themselves from a rocket that might have disintegrated into flames.

These four men have inspired the world with their courage and ability. America, in exploring space has stimulated all Americans to strive closer to perfection.

America is proving out the statement of Sophocles, when he said, "And speech and windswift thought, and all the moods that mold a state hath (man) taught himself; and how to flee the arrows of the frost, when it is hard lodging under the clear sky, and the arrows of the rushing rain; yea he hath resource for all..."

We have today a limitless new resource in the exploration of space.

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