

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):  
S; 1999-0093-F

FOIA Number:

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Smith, Curt, Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1992

---

**OA/ID Number:** 13888  
**Folder ID Number:** 13888-016

---

**Folder Title:**  
Space Shuttle, Washington D.C., 5/17/89

---

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

---

(Smith/Blessey)  
May 13, 1989  
Draft One  
END

*And I salute the crew of the Shuttle Atlantis*  
*Today's selfless*  
*dedication*  
*commits*  
*in my*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SPACE SHUTTLE  
ROSE GARDEN  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1989

Commander Walker and Crew, friends and families of the Shuttle Atlantis, boys and girls, my fellow Americans.

① It is a pleasure to be with you. And to welcome you, as pioneers exploring the horizons of America's technological future, to a house which embodies the greatness of America's present, and her past.

That spirit marks these ceremonies. → For we celebrate today the continuity of America's space program, and of America herself. In Atlantis, we salute achievement which has come to pass. And in Endeavour, the glory which still lies ahead.

Adlai Stevenson once spoke of the "awful majesty of outer space." We see that majesty today, feel it. For the crew of Shuttle Atlantis has linked it with the promise of man. And the students who named the new Space Shuttle orbiter -- they, too, feel it. For they know that space will shape America's dreams of the 21st century.

Two weeks ago, nearly \_\_\_ people welcome Atlantis back to Edwards Air Force Base. They were there to pay America's respects to your bravery and your enterprise. And to reaffirm that as Americans nothing is impossible. Our destiny leads onward and upward -- to the moon, to Venus, to my friends, to harness the skies.

The Atlantis orbiter launched the Magellan spacecraft. And Magellan, of course, marks the first U.S. planetary mission in nearly 12 years.

It will allow us to relay data from all of our scientific satellites to earth. And yield the most detailed picture to data of the planet Venus. It will map up to 90 per cent of the planetary surface. Improve our knowledge of the planet's structure and geophysics. And our knowledge of Venus' surface physics, such as temperature and roughness.

From these and other feats, we will learn more about Venus, and thus ourselves. For Venus is the planet most like Earth in size, mass, and distance from the sun. Magellan will reaffirm America's genius in science and technology. And as it does, your

Nation will thank you -- as I do now -- from the bottom of our heart.

And in coming years, we will build upon your beginnings. We will push back the frontiers in science and exploration. And we will explore them through America's technology, endeavors, and, yes, leaders of tomorrow.

Some of those leaders are here today -- from Mississippi, and from Georgia.

Y'all, a great Bill... the "Y'all" is the name of the... my bet, here's your chance to make a unique program's position. The state's... for by naming the new space shuttle... is a nationwide competition involving 67,000... state, 6100 schools.

Supports... support school projects... state funding... years

Bob... school... "Baldwin" the... school is... personal... packaging... communication... Appearant.

The... M C C S S O... organization... that we're... are:

Ad... 100... space... 1970... 1990s.

... "Math Explorations" ... "Life on Earth" ... space exploration.

Baldwin, orator, in the... 1768, a Baldwin's... all places.

M

... Baldwin... space... Baldwin, ds...

Some of you may recall how Winston Churchill said, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

Well, Magellan was named after the sea-faring explorer of the 16th century. And as the first U.S. planetary mission since 1978, it marks the rebirth of America's planetary program.

From Magellan, we will learn more about Venus, and thus ourselves. For Venus is the planet most like Earth in size, mass, and distance from the sun.

To Commander Walker and his Atlantis crew, my heart-felt congratulations. Today, America salutes your courage and enterprise. For you have reaffirmed you Nation's genius in science and technology. And yet, it's only a beginning.

Four more solar-system missions through the mid-1990s. And 13 more shuttle flights in 1989 and '90. These flights will chart new ~~frontiers~~ in science and exploration. And we will explore those frontiers through the leaders of tomorrow.

We see those leaders in the students here today -- from Mississippi, and from Georgia. For in a nationwide orbiter-naming competition, involving over 71,000 students and 6,100 entries from elementary and secondary schools, you showed how the possibilities of tomorrow point us onward and upward.

Both schools chose the name Endeavour, which Webster's defines as "to make an effort, strive; to try to reach or achieve." And each of your schools has lived that definition.

In the Division I category -- kindergarten through Grade Six -- the national winner is the fifth graders from Senatobia Middle School in Senatobia, Mississippi. Your team taught lower elementary students about space through the up-close and personal. Like simulating a space camp's wireless communications. Or trying on a team-made spacesuit.

And in Division II -- Grades 7 through 12 -- the winning team came from a nearby State -- Tallulah Falls School, Inc., in Tallulah Falls, Georgia. Here, students developed a math magazine, "Math Exploration With James Cook." And created a play comparing Cook's 18th-Century sea exploration to Endeavour's 20th-Century space exploration.

You know, if my history doesn't fail me, Endeavour was the first ship commanded by James Cook, a British explorer, navigator, and astronomer. And in August 1768, on Endeavour's maiden voyage, Cook observed and recorded the transit of the planet Venus.

In a sense, then, the Magellan mission completes the circle -- from Cook, detailing Venus, to Magellan, exploring Venus. And

Endeavour will continue the tradition of discovery --again, continuity through space.

The orbiter-naming contest was, and is, a partnership between NASA and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The CCSSO played a key role in organizing and implementing this contest. And I would like to thank its members. And also my good friend Congressman Tom Lewis, whose legislation created the event.

But most of all, I want to thank you -- Commander Walker and crew, and the students. For you have acted not for ourselves alone -- but for generations to come.

And in so doing, you are making possible -- now, and tomorrow -- that picture of the orbiter lifting off, its rise a swirl of magic. And of Americans cheering its safety and success. And dreaming of the new worlds, and faraway heavens, which form America's destiny.

That is the continuity of America. And of our space shuttle program which points us toward the stars. Thank you, my heartfelt congratulations, God bless you, and God bless America.

# # # #