INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR TO GEMINI 12

The International Geophysical Year or IGY started the Race to Space July 1, 1957 thru December 31, 1958. The United States issued a stamp on May 31, 1958 to bring attention to the American people and people of the world that there was a need to further knowledge on the universe and gain information.
This display shows Stamps and covers of the Universe thru the US two man Gemini 12 program.
Russia changed history OF THE WORLD when it launched into space the FIRST artificial satellite "SPUTNIK I" on October 4, 1957. On April 12, 1961 Russia again placed into earth orbit the first human YURI GAGARIN.
America launched its first success in the "Space Race" on January 31, 1958 when EXPLORER 1 was launched from Cape Cånaveral, Florida

The first American, entering successful manned flight was ALAN SHEPARD (Freedom 7) launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida on a sub-orbital flight on May 5, 1961. Soviet VALENTINA TRESHKOVA became the first woman in space on June 16, 1963. Autograph pictures of Gagarin, Treshkova and Shepard are included with this exhibit along with stamps and covers from early CHIMP flights with all of the Mercury flights and all 12 Gemini flights.
There is much material and knowledge in this exhibit, a part of the Explorer 1 gantry anong with other autographs of these early Space Pioneers. Many more pages can be filled as mankind continues to explore the vastness of space.

It is only fitting that I dedicate this exhibit to members of the CHALLENGER STS-51L crew

SPACE SHUTTLE

STS 51-L

KENNEDY SPACE CTR. FL
JAN 28 AM 1986

USA 22

AT 11:39.13 AM EST A MAJOR CATASTROPHE STRIKES THE U.S. SPACE PROGRAM. THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER WITH A CREW OF SEVEN (INCLUDING THE FIRST CIVILIAN — A TEACHER) IS DESTROYED IN AN EXPLOSION 73 SECONDS AFTER AN APPARENTLY NORMAL LAUNCH FROM KSC'S PAD 39B. IT IS CHALLENGER'S 10TH LAUNCH AND THE 25TH IN THE SHUTTLE PRO-GRAM. THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED 19 YEARS AND 1 DAY AFTER THE APOLLO 1 FIRE. U.S. ASTRO-NAUTS HAVE LOGGED NEARLY 22,000 HOURS IN SPACE IN 56 MANNED MISSIONS.

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