Astronaut Lacy Veach Day of Discovery

*Linking voyages of exploration…..past, present and future.*

We are here today to honor the life and legacy of Charles Lacy Veach, who grew up in Honolulu with an interest in science, had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force, and went on to fly two Space Shuttle missions. Astronaut Lacy Veach serves to remind us all that the dreams of today can be forged into exploration and discoveries of tomorrow. While in Hawai‘i, a child once asked Astronaut Veach: “What does it take to become an astronaut?” Veach’s answer: “You’ve got to believe in your dreams and you’ve got to be hard-headed enough to never let go.”

**Charles Lacy Veach, NASA Astronaut**

Born September 18, 1944, in Chicago, but considered Honolulu, Hawai‘i to be his hometown. Graduated from Punahou School, Honolulu, Hawai‘i in 1962; received a bachelor of science degree in engineering management from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1966. Veach was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force upon graduation from the Air Force Academy. He received his pilot wings at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia in 1967, and attended fighter gunnery school at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Over the next 14 years, he served as a USAF fighter pilot, flying numerous jets on assignments in the United States, Europe, and the Far East, including 275 combat missions in the Republic of Vietnam. Veach left active duty in 1981 but continued to fly fighters as a F-16 pilot with the Texas Air National Guard. Veach began his NASA career in January 1982, was selected as an astronaut candidate in May 1984, and became an astronaut in June 1985. He held a variety of technical assignments and flew as a mission specialist on two Space Shuttle missions, STS-39 (orbiter, Discovery) in 1991 and STS-52 (orbiter, Columbia) in 1992. He logged 436 hours in space. He also worked as the lead astronaut for the development and operation of robotics for the International Space Station (ISS). The seven-window cupola in the Tranquility Node on the ISS, which provides views of Earth, was installed in 2010 and dedicated to Astronaut Veach.

Among his many honors, Veach received the Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and Purple Heart. He was also a member of the US Air Force Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, in 1976 and 1977.

Charles Lacy Veach died in Houston, Texas on October 3, 1995, of cancer.