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My Lunar Journey: Then and Now

Tuesday, July 21, 2009
FOX NEWS

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By Buzz Aldrin



NASA

July 20, 1969: Buzz Aldrin on the moon, with photographer Neil Armstrong reflected in his helmet visor.

spacecraft, tiny when compared to today's Space Shuttle and International Space Station.

We had accomplished a challenge made eight years before by President Kennedy, who made sending us to the moon a national goal to show the world what peaceful scientific discovery and exploration we could do when the entire nation pulled together.

The [pictures](#) we and our fellow lunar astronauts took of the moon and the Earth changed forever our concept of our place in the universe.

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We saw the Earth as alone, fragile and in need of protecting and preserving. Those images helped give birth to the environmental movement.

The science taught us something about how planetary bodies are formed, how similar — and how different — they are.

But above all, voyaging to the moon was a demonstration of national political will and of the ability of our industrial system to create new technologies and capabilities, many of which are still being exploited today by commercial industry.

It was a privilege and an honor to be a part of that historic flight. But four decades later, it's time we called the next generation to grander missions in space, to Mars and beyond. In that way, we can continue our journey.

• ["Apollo 11: One Small Step to Our Future" airs at 10 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Sunday EDT on FOX News.](#)

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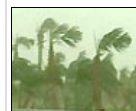
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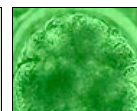
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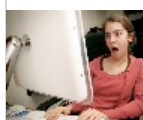


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