NEIL ARMSTRONG 1930 – 2012

‘One Giant Leap’

A humble man took the step the world will never forget

YOUR SUNDAY FLORIDA TODAY IS INSIDE
Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, smiles inside the Lunar Module "Eagle."
Neil Armstrong was among the greatest of American heroes — not just of his time, but of all time. When he and his fellow crew members lifted off aboard Apollo 11 in 1969, they carried with them the aspirations of an entire nation.

President Barack Obama

“As we enter this next era of space exploration, we do so with standing on the shoulders of Neil Armstrong.”

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden

“Neil Armstrong was a hero to all of humanity. His spirit will carry us to the stars.”

ELIN MUNK, FOUNDER OF SPACEX

The family’s statement

“We are heartbroken to share this news that Neil Armstrong, the first American to walk on the moon, passed away today,” the family said in a statement.

Neil, the son of Norwegian immigrants, grew up in Ohio, and at first his ambition was to become a farmer. But he soon realized his place was in the air and obtained his pilot’s license when he was 16. After serving in the Korean War, he joined NASA’s test pilot program and remained there for the rest of his life.

Neil’s contributions to aviation and space exploration were immense. He flew on five space missions, landing safely on the moon on July 20, 1969, with his fellow astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. On July 21, 1969, Armstrong famously said: ‘That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.’

Neil Armstrong was a true pioneer and a national hero. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and by the generations of Americans who were inspired by his courage and his commitment to exploration. We will never forget him. He will remain a beacon of excellence and a source of inspiration for generations to come.

— Scott Summerson, FLORIDA TODAY

During re-entry from flight training in an X-15, Neil Armstrong inadvertently overshoots Edwards Air Force Base in California. He had just enough energy to land on the south end of Edwards. Nasa photo

Neil Armstrong 1930 - 2012

‘One Giant Leap’

An incredible journey from an Ohio farm to the moon

Barbec: NASA picked right man

“We couldn’t have found a better person to have traveled on the first on the moon.”

That was how long-time NBC space correspondent Jim Jarrett of Merrill Island remembered Neil Armstrong. “He never hurried himself, he was never condescending,” Jarrett said. “He never saw a chain of Neil Armstrong and his accomplishments, he was most proud of his influence on youth, inspiring them about space exploration. Bartlett and Armstrong were a perfect pair. A very good man.”

— Jim Jarrett, FLORIDA TODAY

Ex-mayor, icon had Buckeye bond

Former Cocoa Beach Mayor Joe Morgan had a special bond with astronaut Neil Armstrong when they were on the same spacecraft in the 2000s. Morgan was assistant to the vice president of space operations at North American Rockwell, and his job was to look after the astronaut. “Neil and I became good friends,” Morgan said. “Neil was a very strong, confident person who always believed he was just a simple guy.”

The reason Rockebrand on Earth helped power the Saturn V

Neil Armstrong was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. “He was a gentle soul with a great sense of humor,” said Morgan. “He had a great spirit and was always looking for ways to make people laugh.”

As much as Neil cherished the memories of the moon, he also treasured the memories of his Ohio roots. “He remained an advocate for aviation and education throughout his life and never lost his brotherhood among those pilots,” said Morgan.

Neil was a true pioneer and a national hero. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and by the generations of Americans who were inspired by his courage and his commitment to exploration. We will never forget him. He will remain a beacon of excellence and a source of inspiration for generations to come.

— Scott Summerson, FLORIDA TODAY

Astronaut was one cool customer

Joe Momroot, former KSC Director of Astronaut Office, remembered Armstrong during his Apollo flight and said he was one of the coolest people he ever met. “He always believed he was just a simple guy. He was always happy to talk with people and make them feel comfortable,” said Momroot.

Neil was among the greatest of American heroes — not just of his time, but of all time. When he and his fellow crew members lifted off aboard Apollo 11 in 1969, they carried with them the aspirations of an entire nation.

Neil Armstrong was among the greatest of American heroes — not just of his time, but of all time. When he and his fellow crew members lifted off aboard Apollo 11 in 1969, they carried with them the aspirations of an entire nation.

President John F. Kennedy declared, “Today we mark the end of a decade. A decade of soaring ambition, a decade in which man has gone to the moon and returned him safely by the end of the decade.”

Neil Armstrong was one cool customer. “He always believed he was just a simple guy. He was always happy to talk with people and make them feel comfortable,” said Momroot.
Neil Armstrong 1930 - 2012

"One Giant Leap"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012

FLORIDA TODAY

SEE IT ONLINE
Video presentation and more of Armstrong's life at floridatoday.com

Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon as commander of Apollo 11.