



May 28, 1959, L-R: Alan Shepard, John Glenn (behind Shepard), Gus Grissom, Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, Walter Schirra, Deke Slayton

[Darrell and Edith Royal loan rare Apollo mission memorabilia to LBJ Library & Museum](#)

Press conference with the Royals on Wednesday, October 15th at 10 a.m.

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(Austin) - The current exhibit at the LBJ Library, *To the Moon: The American Space Program in the 1960s* will be enriched with the loan of three important items from the Apollo moon missions. On Wednesday, October 15th, at 10 a.m., former University of Texas football Coach Darrell Royal and his wife, Edith, will officially share three Apollo items that were originally presented to them as gifts.

- Apollo 8 – framed U. S. flag that was carried aboard the first manned lunar orbit spacecraft from December 21-27, 1968, signed by astronauts James Lovell, Frank Borman, and William Anders.
- Apollo 12 – framed U. S. flag that went to the moon on the Apollo 12 mission from November 14-24, 1969, signed by astronauts Alan Bean, Pete Conrad, and Richard Gordon. The Library currently features art work of Alan Bean, a UT alum.

- Apollo 16 – framed U. S. flag and cloth mat that were carried to the moon on the Apollo 16 moon mission from April 16-27, 1972, signed by astronauts Charles Duke, John Young, and Ken Mattingly. This item includes a photograph of astronaut Charles Duke with his arm outstretched who wrote in a note to Darrell Royal, “I could not quite come up with a hook um horns sign.”

The Royal’s donations will be displayed as part of the exhibit *To the Moon: The American Space Program in the 1960s*, which runs until the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, July 20, 2009.

As a Senator, Lyndon Johnson co-sponsored the legislation that created NASA in 1958. As Vice President, Johnson was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to head the Space Council. In a memo to Kennedy, Johnson recommended that “with a strong effort the United States could conceivably be first” to achieve Kennedy’s goal of “landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth” by the end of the decade. When he became President, Johnson ensured that this goal remained on track, was funded, and that the mission was accomplished. This became one of the most awe-inspiring and dramatic stories of our time. In 1973, the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, was renamed the Johnson Space Center in honor of LBJ.

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