



Apollo 11 45th Anniversary Lunch

**Message from
Chris Kraft
NASA's First
Flight Director**

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We were all very fortunate to have lived in the Time of Aquarius and to have been granted the privilege of being an integral part of the team that made it possible to land men on the Moon and return them safely to earth.

Each year as we get further away from that time period it becomes even more significant.

The people in Australia operating the electronic equipment were indeed a large part of the tracking system so vital to communicate with and thereby control the mission while advising the astronauts on the procedures required.

I still vividly remember the situation on the plains of Australia as those beautiful antennas received the transmitted signals from the Moon. The feeling we had as we saw the telemetered signals activating our displays and hearing the voices of Armstrong and Aldrin as they struggled to deal with the problems they had remain indelibly emblazoned in our memories. It was a chilling and historical moment. That of course was capped off by the "eerie" television signals that came to us by way of the antennas in Australia. I know all of you still have the tremendous feeling of joy and accomplishment of that day.

Tec Roberts and I visited with many of you in 1967 when we spent almost 3 weeks traveling around your country and getting to know many of you now gathered there to celebrate this awe inspiring occasion. We had a wonderful time being with you and being exposed to your traditions.

Congratulations to all of you and please accept my thanks and good wishes for such a marvelous job well done.

Sincerely,
Chris Kraft

Retired Director, Johnson Space Center
and NASA's First Flight Director.