



**SPACE RENAISSANCE INTERNATIONAL**

[www.spacerenaissance.org](http://www.spacerenaissance.org)

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

- for immediate release -

Contact: Walter Putnam

T: +1 770-723-0555

E: [waltputnam@gmail.com](mailto:waltputnam@gmail.com)

# **SPACE RENAISSANCE INT'L SEEKS GLOBAL HOLIDAY**

## **Urges celebration of first moon landing, future in space**

*Planet Earth, 24 July 2011*

Space Renaissance International is calling for a worldwide holiday to celebrate the first Moon landing and continuing efforts to assure civilization's advancement into extraterrestrial space.

In a July 24th letter to other organizations, government agencies and groups around the globe that are involved in space exploration and development, SRI urged that July 20-21 be established as a time to recognize mankind's achievements through the "First Step" onto another celestial body and to promote all endeavors leading humanity into realms beyond Earth. It was on July 20, 1969, in the United States and Europe – July 21 in earlier time zones – that Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong made the historic "giant leap for mankind," to be joined minutes later by Buzz Aldrin.

There have been other efforts to establish a day celebrating this extraordinary accomplishment, but none have had the reach sought by SRI, an international organization associated with science groups, space commerce advocates and other space enthusiasts around the world. In their letter, President Adriano Autino and Secretary General Gail B. Leatherwood wrote that SRI "does not claim 'ownership' of this initiative." They appealed to others to join in promoting the time of celebration as one way of unifying the space movement "to speak with a single voice."

They also wrote that the effort was in no way meant to detract from "Yuri's Night," a similar event commemorating Yuri Gagarin's the first manned orbital flight, or to focus only on the United States' achievement in first reaching the Moon.

In the proposal circulated with the letter, SRI said it was calling "for individuals, communities, nations, the United Nations, the space agencies, the governments of all countries, to approve and promote July 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> as a worldwide holiday, to celebrate the first human step on another celestial body – a milestone on the path to fulfill human destiny, creating a solar civilization."

SRI Executive Committee member Kim Peart, who first proposed the idea, added: "First Step is about silence, reflection, watching, wondering – recapturing a unique moment when the whole world stopped to watch and wonder."

---

---