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**APOLLO 13 HERO JIM LOVELL TO CONTRIBUTE
COLLECTION TO ADLER PLANETARIUM**

**Lovell to lead Adler's 75th Anniversary, help acquire Gemini 12 spacecraft for
long-term Chicago exhibition and participate in sculpture unveiling**

CHICAGO – One month before the Adler Planetarium observes its 75th Anniversary, American space hero Captain James A. Lovell, Jr. has given the museum a spectacular birthday gift. Today as the Adler – America's First Planetarium - rolled out its anniversary plans, Lovell, veteran of four Gemini and Apollo missions, announced he would consolidate his personal collection and contribute it to the Adler Planetarium.

“The Adler inspires young and old alike to learn about space science which contributes to our national identity as a science and technology leader,” Lovell said. “I can't imagine a better use of my collection than in this noble effort.”

Adler President Paul H. Knappenberger Jr., introduced Captain Lovell as the honorary chairman of the museum's year-long 75th Anniversary celebration, which begins on May 12. “Jim Lovell is an American hero whose contributions to space science and our national pride are inestimable,” said Knappenberger. “He recalls the thrilling early moments of human space exploration, a phenomenon never anticipated when Chicago's famous planetarium was founded by Max Adler in 1930. He also encourages us to look forward and inspire the next generation of explorers.”

“I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Adler's 75th Anniversary,” Lovell said. “Since its founding in 1930, the Adler has been the recognized leader among planetariums all over the world.”

Lovell's announcement coincides with the 35th anniversary of the Apollo 13 mission. On this day in 1970, Lovell and his crew successfully modified the Apollo 13 lunar module into an effective lifeboat when its oxygen system failed. Their resourcefulness helped conserve electrical power and water in sufficient supply to survive in space and return safely to Earth. The perilous mission captivated television audiences around the world in 1970, and was the basis of the 1995 Oscar-winning film directed by Ron Howard. In the movie, Captain Lovell is portrayed by Tom Hanks.

Spanning a historic career and telling the exciting story of America's pioneering efforts in space, Captain Lovell's collection includes important documents, memorabilia and personal space artifacts. It is widely displayed in a number of museums, in Lovell's home and at his restaurant in Lake Forest.

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New Emphasis on Space Exploration Brings National Treasure to Chicago

The Adler's 75th Anniversary will include the announcement of a new focus on human space exploration. As part of that effort, Knappenberger announced an agreement between the Adler and the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution to exhibit the Gemini 12 spacecraft in Chicago on a long-term basis. The spacecraft was one of four flown by Lovell in his career as an astronaut. It is presently housed at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. At the request of Captain Lovell, it was approved for relocation to the Adler.

The Gemini 12 spacecraft will be the centerpiece of a new interactive exhibition about American's space program to be unveiled in 2006. As part of the loan agreement, the Adler will help the Smithsonian conserve the object, a process that will require many months. When the work is completed, the newly restored Gemini 12 spacecraft will be displayed in a specially-designed exhibition case to prevent additional erosion of its façade and component parts. President Paul Knappenberger noted, "It is an honor for a Chicago institution to be asked to display and assist in preserving a national treasure like the Gemini 12 capsule."

New Sculpture to Commemorate Human Space Flight

To recognize Captain Lovell's achievements, the Adler commissioned a life-like seven-foot sculpture as part of its 75th Anniversary. In late June Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley will help dedicate the sculpture in the Adler's newly-restored Rainbow Lobby. The sculpture is intended to commemorate man's quest to explore beyond the Earth and will feature one of Captain Lovell's most famous quotes: "I have seen the Earth as it truly is...a grand oasis in the vastness of space."

About Captain James A. Lovell, Jr.

James A. Lovell was chosen for the national space program in September 1962 following extensive experience as a naval aviator and test pilot. Lovell executed various commands in the Gemini mission program, including backup pilot for the Gemini 4 flight and backup commander for Gemini 9. He was the pilot of the history-making Gemini 7 mission, which saw the first rendezvous of two manned spacecraft in 1965, and commander of the Gemini 12 mission in 1966 that perfected astronaut extra-vehicular operations. As part of the Apollo program, Lovell served as command module pilot and navigator for the epic six-day journey of Apollo 8 – man's maiden voyage to the Moon. He and fellow crewman were the first humans to leave the Earth's gravitational influence. Lovell was also backup commander to Neil Armstrong for the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission.

Lovell's final and most famous flight was the Apollo 13 mission in 1970. Until surpassed by Skylab astronauts, Captain Lovell held the record for most hours in space – 29.8 days (715 hours and 5 minutes).

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America's First Planetarium

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum – America's First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. Celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2005, the Adler promotes leading edge research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The museum is home to one of the world's most important antique instrument collections and is the only museum in the world with two full-size planetarium theaters, including the world's first StarRider Theater. The Adler is also a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in science.

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and is open every day except for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information, call 312.922.STAR, or visit our website at www.adlerplanetarium.org

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