

25 May 2024



(Picture credits: NASA)

Anniversary of JFK's first Moon speech (1961)

Space agency/country: USA

It has been more than sixty years now since the first Moon speech was delivered by US president John F. Kennedy. It was 1961, right before a special session of the US Congress. By that time, it had already been four years since the first human was sent into space. Yuri Gagarin was from the Soviet Union, so the United States felt like they were well behind in the Space Race. A few weeks earlier, on 5 May 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American to travel into space—although he did not orbit the Earth like the Soviet astronaut had done, and he only remained in space for a few seconds. During this speech, president Kennedy stated his intention to send the first humans to the Moon by the end of the decade, using his famous quote “*We choose to go on the Moon, and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, ...*”.

For more information:

<https://history.nasa.gov/moondec.html>

<https://www.space.com/jfk-moon-speech-congress-apollo-60-years>