

# DID YOU KNOW...? Which NASA space flight began the tradition of astronauts wearing official mission patches?

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And another month goes by. Yes, the month of March has marched past, and we're now 1/4 of the way through 2024.

So how's your year going? Mine's going as well as can be expected.

Maybe the rest of the year will be better; maybe it'll stay about the same. We won't consider the possibility that it could be worse, not here anyway.

What's always good is the trivia, so let's dive into this week's collected tidbits!

Did you know ...

... the penguin is the only bird that can swim, but not fly? (Down there around the South Pole, what is there to fly to?)

... about 55% of the world's milk drinkers drink goat's milk? (Not baaa-a-ad.)

... shoe salesmen used to use x-ray machines? Before the potential risk of long-term exposure to x-rays was fully understood, salesman at shoe stores would use an x-ray machine to photograph a customer's feet, thus helping the customer purchase a properly fitting pair of shoes. (There's room here for a line about "life is full of little trade-offs," but I'm not going to do it.)

... comedian Groucho Marx wore a mustache because of a game show? Before Marx (1890-1977) hosted his classic You Bet Your Life on television beginning in 1950, it was a hit quiz on radio from 1947 on. When the producers wanted to move the show to television, they asked Marx - who had become famous in movies for wearing an enormous greasepaint mustache and frock coat - to wear the same things on the television show. Marx informed the producers, "That character is dead," and refused to do it. Without a mustache, though, Marx was unrecognizable, so the producers asked him to grow a real one - which he did, and kept for the rest of his life. Additional trivia note: Marx never wanted a contestant to leave the show empty-handed. He pushed for - and got - a simple question worth a few bucks if the contestants lost everything, and his "Who's buried in Grant's Tomb?" became a part of television history.

... professional athletes used to moonlight in entertainment? Back in the halcyon days before being a pro athlete equaled being a millionaire, ballplayers were not paid very much, and during the off-season, they didn't get paid anything at all. So a lot of pro athletes turned to the stage to find money. Babe Ruth (1895-1948), for instance, spent a lot of his off-season time on the vaudeville stage, singing. If you care to call it that. Other athletes took on regular jobs during the down times. For example, Brooklyn Dodger great Gil Hodges (1924-1972) moonlighted in the off season as a hardware salesman - in Brooklyn. (In most cases, as entertainers, they were great baseball players.)

... the first NASA space flight to have an official mission patch was Gemini 5 in 1965? Crewed by Gordon Cooper (1927-2004) and Charles "Pete" Conrad (1930-1999), the mission was to be the longest time men had spent in space - a total of eight days. Cooper and Conrad thus developed a mission patch featuring a Conestoga wagon with the words, "8 Days or Bust" on it. NASA management liked the patch but didn't like the slogan, fearing that setting the duration record would detract from the other objectives of the flight. They also were concerned that, if the mission were to somehow have to end early, having the legend on the patch would make the flight seem a failure, so they removed the words from the official version of the mission patch. The Gemini 5 mission did stay in orbit the full eight days, but problems with the then-new fuel cells caused several experiments to be cancelled. Conrad said later, "I wished I'd brought a book." Additional trivia note: NASA retroactively approved mission patches for all previous flights in the space program, and they are available for purchase as souvenirs. But no mission patch actually flew until Gemini 5.

... automobile turn signals were invented in 1929? More than two decades after cars first hit the market (and the streets), a man named Oscar J. Simler (1887-1968) invented and patented the device that sends a flashing signal from a lever on the side of the steering wheel to the lights in the front and rear of the car. But the turn signals didn't hit the market until 1939, and not until after World War II were they broadly adopted by car manufacturers. Prior to that, drivers used hand signals out the window to show their intentions. (Which made signaling a turn in the rain pretty aggravating, I am sure.)

... female canaries do not sing? (Oh, the temptation here ... the temptation ...)

... one entertainer sold more war bonds in World War II than any other person? Singer Kate Smith (1907-1986) was single-handedly responsible for selling more than \$600 million in war bonds. Smith's 1938 rendition of "God Bless America" is still the standard today. (And that was enough to finance a few days of the war, adjusted for inflation.)

... breathing can use up calories? Well, it depends on the temperature. At a temperature of -40° Fahrenheit, you use 14.4 calories per hour breathing. Additional trivia note: -40° Fahrenheit is the only temperature that occupies the same spot on the Celsius scale. Forty below zero Fahrenheit is also forty below zero Celsius. (Pretty chilly thought, eh?).

Now ... you know!



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- **New Life Church of God of Stockton**  
516 W. Highway 84  
Stockton, GA 31649  
Pastor: Dwaine Crummey  
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Sunday Morning - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Night - 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.
- **New Life Ministries**  
104 W Thigpen Ave  
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Lakeland, GA • 912-422-4212
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Pastor: Bro. Joseph Ingram  
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Tuesday Bible Study . . . . 6:30 PM
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