

Apollo 11 was the culmination of the space race that I grew up with. Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin went to the moon on this historic trip. I was 15 at the time. I was racing my Soap Box Derby down the 1st Ave hill in Iowa City, Iowa that Sunday afternoon when someone announced on the loudspeaker that the Eagle had landed. That was Sunday, July 20, 1969.

I was glued to the TV when Neil climbed down the ladder and first stepped onto the lunar surface. Incredible. I loved the space program and watching these two play on the lunar surface was the envy of all your people at the time.

They left many experiments on the moon, as well as collect rock and soil samples. These were the minor achievements of this mission.

The real mission results were the culmination of an incredible effort by thousands of people, who, when called to action by President Kennedy on May 25, 1961 (my 7th birthday) to send a man to the Moon and safely return him to Earth by the end of the decade. It was the achievement of man to overcome his environment, build incredible machines and step foot onto another world. This was the real mission results, in my opinion.

Our quest for knowledge is what sets us apart from all the other animals on this planet. And NASA, ESA, the Russian Space Program, the Chinese Space Program and the Japanese Space Program are just a part of this quest for knowledge.

With all the diplomats on this planet who try to solve all kinds of problems, it has been the space programs of these countries that has done the most to break down the barriers between us. Look at how we cooperate with the Russians on the ISS. I think that is will be the space program that will help mend the fence with relations with the Chinese.

That's why I think its so important to fund NASA. Not only for the incredible missions NASA undertakes, but the diplomacy that is taking place right in front of us.

The facts of the mission are easily found on the internet, which I could reiterate in this report, but that's not the whole story of Apollo 11. I know this report might be a bit off of your expectations, but Apollo 11 was the catalyst that has spurred on human imagination and exploration to where we find ourselves today.