

George H.W. Bush was a long-time supporter of the U.S. space program. I first met him as we flew on a NASA charter to the Apollo 14 launch. As vice-president for eight years, he stayed mainly in the background on space policy issues, but within six months of White House set major exploration goals for the country, something that Ronald Reagan was never willing to do. The he asked for the initial budget increases to support his initiative. His enthusiasm for space exploration was undercut by NASA on one side and the Congress on the other, so it was stillborn. It was also under George H.W. Bush that the United States first engaged with post-Soviet Russia, beginning the complex relationship that persists to today.

John Logsdon, Dec. 2, 2018