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NEWS RELEASE



University of San Diego

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

DE SALES HALL
ALCALA PARK
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92110
TELEPHONE (714) 295-2145

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COL. ANDERS SCHEDULED FOR USD GRADUATION

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--Lt. Col. William Anders, one of the three astronauts who made the Christmas trip around the moon, has accepted an invitation to receive an honorary degree of doctor of science from the University of San Diego at Graduation ceremonies May 31. He informed the University that special permission will be required to enable him to be excused temporarily from his duties as a member of the back-up crew for the Apollo 11 moon-landing flight at that time.

The astronaut, in a telephone conversation with the Most Rev. Francis J. Furey, Bishop of San Diego, Chancellor of USD, said he was looking forward to coming to the University.

He also told Bishop Furey that a medal commemorating Pope John XXIII which the bishop had given Col. Anders just before the flight to the Moon, was now going back to Rome again, for presentation to Pope Paul VI.

The medal is being taken by Col. Frank Borman on his goodwill visit to Europe. Borman asked Anders for a memento of the flight which he, as a Catholic, could suggest for the Pope.

Anders told Bishop Furey: "When Frank Borman asked me for a suitable memento I gave him the medal you had given me. Although I did not want to part with it, I thought that sending it to the Pope was in a good cause."

So the medal, which came from Rome with Bishop Furey, is now returning to Rome from San Diego--via the moon.

Anders grew up in La Mesa, where he attended St. Martin's Church.

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