

Jim Hartz Bio

Jim began covering NASA during the Gemini program. His first major assignment was co-anchoring with David Brinkley the sudden return of the Gemini VIII flight on March 16, 1966.

Jim covered every manned flight after that, through Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz, and the early Shuttle programs, from 1966 to 1976.

Jim came by his love and understanding of aerospace affairs legitimately. His brother was a U.S. Air Force pilot and taught Jim to fly as a teenager.

In his career Jim has flown nearly every type of aircraft, up to and including the U-2 and SR-71 spyplanes. He was the first reporter to fly in those aircraft, as well as the first reporter to fly the F-15 Eagle. He also has time in a WW I Curtiss JN-4D Jenny and a Learjet.

He's pulled the propane cord flying with the late Malcolm Forbes in his "Capitalist Tool" hot air balloon.

Jim was the youngest correspondent that NBC had ever hired in 1964. He was 24. He anchored the six and 11 o'clock news on the WNBC-TV in New York City for ten years (1964-1974) before becoming co-host of Today with Barbara Walters in 1974 until 1977. Jim anchored the news at the Washington, D.C. NBC owned station, WRC, from 1977 to 1979.

Jim has won several Emmys, the highest honor in his business, including a share of that award presented to NBC News for its coverage of Apollo.

He won another Emmy for his coverage of the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Following his career at NBC News Jim hosted Innovation, a science and high technology series that ran for ten years (1980-1990) on PBS. Also during that period, for the 1981 and 1982 seasons he was co-host with Mary Martin of the PBS series Over Easy.

He was the host of Asia Now, a joint venture between PSB and NHK in Tokyo from 1990 to 1993. During that period he traveled to Asia more than 30 times.

He was a semi-finalist in the Journalist in Space program which, until it was canceled in the wake of the Challenger accident, was intended to fly a reporter aboard the shuttle.

In addition to his reporting on NBC and PBS, Jim has written for National Geographic and Reader's Digest.

He was the co-author (with science astronaut Dr. Rick Chappell) of "Worlds Apart," a book analyzing the relationship between the media and the science establishment, published by the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

He is married to Alexandra Dickson Hartz, a psychotherapist in private practice in their home city of Alexandria, Virginia. He's the father of three grown children and six grandchildren.