

A photograph of astronaut Sally Ride in the cockpit of the Space Shuttle Challenger. She is wearing a blue flight suit with an American flag patch on the sleeve and a NASA patch. She is smiling and holding a microphone to her mouth. The background shows the complex control panels of the shuttle.

Today in History

June 18, 1983

▲ **Astronaut Sally Ride became the first American woman in space when she was launched into orbit aboard the space shuttle Challenger**

2003: U.S. forces captured Abid Hamid Mahmoud al-Tikriti, a key adviser to Saddam Hussein

2003: Italy granted immunity from prosecution to top government officials, blocking Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's corruption trial

2006: A Gustav Klimt portrait looted during World War II was sold for a then record price of \$135m

2006: Catalonia won autonomy from Madrid following a referendum