



Commander Mark Kelly resumes training with condition of wife, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, improving

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NASA officials announced the arrival of the Space Shuttle Endeavour at Launch Pad 39A in preparation for its last, and NASA's next-to-last shuttle mission next month, according to the NASA [web site](#) .

The [Endeavor's](#) trek from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the Launch Pad took six-hours as Kennedy Space workers and their families watched. Endeavor will launch on April 19, and tote the \$2 billion Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) particle detector, which has been under development for 17 years, DiscoveryNews.com [reported](#) . Her first ever space launch occurred May 7, 1992.

Technicians spent Friday connecting the Ground Umbilical Carrier Plate (GUCP) hydrogen gas vent line to Endeavour's external fuel tank and will perform an [Auxiliary Power Unit](#) "hot fire" that will test the power-producing system for the spacecraft's hydraulics.

The six Endeavor astronauts scheduled for STS-134 have been busy at Johnson Space Center's Virtual Reality lab in Houston for robotics training as well as ingress/egress rehearsals for the launch and scrub. Their mission will last 14-days and includes four spacewalks, Foxnews [reported](#) .

One of the astronauts, Endeavour's commander, [Mark Kelly](#), husband of Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford's and West Orange, N.J. native, removed himself from training for 30 days in order to care for Gifford's after she was shot during an [attempted assassination](#) on her life near Tucson in January. After a positive forecast from Gifford's doctors, Kelly decided to resume training and join his crew for the scheduled launching, CBS NEWS [reported](#)

[Congressman Gifford's](#) has been recovering from her injuries at an extensive rehabilitation facility in Houston since her discharge from an Arizona hospital. Gifford's office [told](#)

the Daily Mail, the

[congresswoman](#)

plans to watch her husband and Endeavour crew's targeted 7:48 p.m. (EDT) launch on April 19 from the Kennedy Space Center.

Endeavour's sister ship, the [Discovery](#), returned Wednesday from its last ever voyage, a 13-day space station construction mission. Discovery will be the first of NASA's three remaining operational Space Shuttles to be retired as the space program winds down.

The STS-134 mission marks the final flight of Space Shuttle Endeavour. This mission's launch was delayed due to changes in the design of the Shuttle's main payload, AMS-02, as well as delays to STS-133.

The Space Shuttle Atlantis is the last of NASA's three shuttles scheduled to launch June 28, 2011 despite the fact that the mission did not receive congressional funding.