

Happy 125th Birthday, Richard E. Byrd!

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In Boston—Rear Adm. Byrd, commanding Navy Task Force 43 in the Antarctica Operation Deepfreeze, received two Malemute pups from breeder Mrs. Seeley. The pups names are Windie, left, and Diska. (November 11, 1955?)

This Friday, October 25, 2013, marks the 125th birthday of Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Jr., who was born in Winchester, Virginia, on October 25, 1888 [1]. Byrd was a naval aviator and explorer of both the Arctic and Antarctica, and became famous in 1926 as the first man credited for flying to the North Pole. Byrd's roundtrip, aerial expedition to the North Pole, funded by wealthy American industrialists, was completed in about sixteen hours on May 9, 1926, and earned him international fame. For distinguishing himself at the risk of his life during this expedition, Byrd was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor for heroism given by the United States. Later in his career, Byrd established the United States presence in Antarctica and flew to the South Pole. On March 11, 1957, at age 68, he died of a heart ailment in his sleep at his home in Boston, Massachusetts and got buried in Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Virginia.

On his 125th birthday, I wanted to come up with something unique related to his birthday that will help us remember this great man and his courageous achievements. So, I started looking into his birthday and luckily stumbled onto a few interesting number connections.

There is a simple numerical connection between Byrd's upcoming birthday number 125 and his full birthday, 10-25-1888, or 10251888. How? First, introduce a zero digit between digits 1 and 2 in 125, yielding 1025, which is Byrd's birth date, October 25. Next, move digit 5 on the right side of 125 to the left side giving 512, which equals $1 \times 8 \times 8 \times 8$, where removing the multiplication signs results in 1888, which is Byrd's birth year. Then, putting numbers 1025 and 1888 side-by-side leads to Byrd's full birth date, 10251888. Isn't this something?

I also found out that there is a simple numerical connection between the left-half and the right-half of Byrd's full birth date, 10251888. How? Split 10251888 in the middle as 1025 and 1888. Note that the product of the digits of 1888 equals 512 and one plus twice 512 yields 1025! Wow!

Happy 125th birthday, Richard E. Byrd!

[1] Richard E. Byrd, Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_E._Byrd