I'm still pinching myself over that one you know it's good to be last it would have been wonderful to be first and if I had to hold up you know a few people are a few missions that really stick out in my mind you know for the Space Shuttle I gosh SDS one was just incredible you know to know here's this vehicle we've never really test flown in the vertical position before with its rocket engines and and we're not going to do it we're gonna put two people on it and we're gonna send it into space it's historically significant and it's
15 00:00:51,179 --> 00:00:56,280
the end of the program but there's we've

16 00:00:54,390 --> 00:00:57,869
learned a lot of lessons throughout the

17 00:00:56,280 --> 00:00:59,609
30 years that we've flown it in the

18 00:00:57,869 --> 00:01:00,718
Space Shuttle is a much safer vehicle

19 00:00:59,609 --> 00:01:04,198
now and we don't take those dramatic

20 00:01:00,719 --> 00:01:05,789
risks like we did with STS 1 so like I

21 00:01:04,198 --> 00:01:07,590
said historically significant because

22 00:01:05,789 --> 00:01:09,390
it's the last but I don't consider it to

23 00:01:07,590 --> 00:01:12,179
be you know the dramatic moment from a

24 00:01:09,390 --> 00:01:14,250
personal achievement standpoint or you

25 00:01:12,179 --> 00:01:20,340
know any technical achievement like STS

26 00:01:14,250 --> 00:01:22,920
one really was well I don't think there

27 00:01:20,340 --> 00:01:24,599
was really a moment I mean I I like a

28 00:01:22,920 --> 00:01:26,640
lot of people my age you know I watched

29
I watched the men walk on the moon when

I was just a youngster you know eight nine ten years old and I remember being enthralled by it I would draw a little pictures of the rocket and it was amazing to me now I don't think my interest necessarily stayed at that level but as I reached high school I realized that I I'd like to fly and the Navy always intrigued me so I went in the Navy learned fly became a carrier pilot and learned that a lot of the early astronauts were Navy and Air Force test pilots tried to go to test pilot
school and things just started to flow

in a direction that the next natural

step was to apply to him to be an

astronaut

well there is a theme that the 126

mission you know of course we had in the

mplm we had we had living station sleep

stations we had we had a kitchen we had

so we had a bedroom we had a kitchen we

had bathroom we had a gym I mean it was

really amazing if you looked at it we

had the space-based version of the

American dream it was great to be a part

of that it was great to turn the space

station from you know that it's modular
tube-like structure into a home that people can live in for you know it'll be 15 years by the time the space station program runs out in 2020 and it was good to be a part of that and plus we we did a lot of what we think is great work on restoring the the solar Alfa joint over on the right side which had kind of ground to a halt we got that thing up and running so it's very rewarding after that point it was kind of those gee whiz moments in space flood I kind of call him now Betty yeah of course I had been in space at the time
and I thought to myself I'm really here
flying the shuttle simulator I mean it
was a it wasn't just a wild moment for
me as pilot you know pilots always
aspire to fly the newest greatest thing
out there and then it's my first chance
of fly real shuttle approached I was
just in heaven it was it was spectacular
yeah so I remember it well boy I'll tell
you you know I what I do remember a
moment from that was you know you fly to
a position that's a beam the runway it's
28,000 feet and I looked down and I
thought there is absolutely no way we
can possibly land on that runway right there and you know of course you get proved to me about a thousand times since that it's entirely possible but it's a largely unnatural act that we've just gotten used to over time for me it was always something that was impossible you know you just didn't even ask to do something like that because you know guys like you don't do things like this that's a message I try to take out there especially to the youngsters here you know who maybe aspire to do great things but perhaps are unwilling
or unable to take that initial step is

00:04:14,318 --> 00:04:20,810
you know don't sell yourself short get

00:04:16,730 --> 00:04:24,100
out there and I made it you can make it

00:04:20,810 --> 00:04:24,100
I was just an average dude