I’m NASA astronaut Kjell Higginbotham. I always loved math and science and I loved kind of electronics I see always puts around with the different things that at home much to my parents sugar and so I guess without knowing it I really was kind of drawn drawn to both of those subjects my thing was just I wanted to become an electrical engineer and be just really good at my job and for people to think I was very confident it was a fluke I actually was going to work for IBM after college I worked with them for several summers and
unfortunately they were not hiring

engineers at the time and long story

short is I got a call in my dorm room

one night or from a division chief here

who'd seen my resume and thought I would

be a good match and offer me my choice

of two positions in his division

my biggest inspirations were my family

members I have an incredible mom and dad

and siblings who are very supportive and

they were always an inspiration to me

because they always encouraged me to do

my best probably my first sunrise I was

up in the commander's seat and affecting
it ordered me to come to the flight deck

because my head had been in space half a day and a half and told me

to sit down and look out the window and see the curvature of the earth

and then you could see the Sun just bursting forth and it was just it

was a beautiful sight I was just enamored for a very long time it was

probably one of my tense moments when I was up there because you have this huge piece of equipment on this 70-foot long arm and it's worth billions of dollars
and the only thing you're thinking in my mind and in your mind is don't let me hit anything and when we didn't have a payload on the end of it we actually had one of the crew members and and again you have a precious life on the end of the arm so you're just tense the entire time and just very very focused about what you're doing the best aspect is probably getting to meet a lot of different people and getting to go a lot of different places I've met incredible people not only in the astronaut corps but just all over the world and that's probably one of the
neatest things we get to do

I think everybody sees it as this great

like Disney worldwide for us and this is

wonderful vacation and they feel really

pretend to forget that we are actually

working really hard I mean from the time

we get up there and unstrap till the

time we come back we are just moving at

a pretty good clip chop chop work out

hang out with my girlfriend try to spend

time with my family as much as possible

just do very human very normal things I

don't know I've been in this career for

20 years now and it's pretty much been
the only career I've been in short of becoming the NFL Commissioner I'm not really sure what other pathway I would take from my career you