I would imagine you could say bittersweet it'll be an emotional event to say the least discovery gets the job done it's fun all kinds of missions and it's done them extremely well it's a great flying machine and I think that's what it's remembered for with 38 missions completed successfully space shuttle Discovery achieved a robust history of accomplishment for NASA's oldest active shuttle including to return to flight missions the launch of NASA's Hubble
Space Telescope and the deployment of 17 satellites along the way, discovery also contributed to scientific knowledge on Earth by hosting microgravity laboratories in space and carrying specialized instruments that analyzed Earth's atmosphere.

Discovery has a role to play, you can look back in the on the flights that it's done and the contributions that it made to forwarding the future mankind in recent years. Discovery played an indispensable role in the construction of the International Space Station.
largest spacecraft ever assembled

whenever I see Discovery launch I definitely feel like a proud parent as
do everyone that works with Discovery it's the oldest orbiter in the fleet
it's flown more often
the other orbiters and it will take that record with it until it's when it's put away in the Emma Museum now headed into space for the last time
discovery continues pointing away towards accomplishment its payload
includes a module that astronauts and station residents will use for years to
come on the space station as they continue its cutting-edge research crews

will even be joined on the station by a robotic astronaut heading into space on discovery Robonaut 2 the first humanoid robot to venture into space it's a privilege I think for us to be able to fly it on the last flight and it's a real tribute to the folks here and any other manned spacecraft centers for all they've done to keep these vehicles flying and allowing that you know being able to do all the things they do space

shuttle Discovery blasted into orbit for the first time on August 30th 1984 it
made its mark on the future right away

when the astronauts tested a solar array system that would later be used on the International Space Station on its second flight STS 51 a discovery hosted a team of astronauts that used futuristic jetpack to snare a stranded satellite and return it to earth it was an amazing sight to watch Joe Allen with a man maneuvering unit flying free of the shuttle no tethers over to a satellite which was a very close by you know attach his grapple fixture and fly it back to the shuttle
and that wasn't an amazing thing to

see Discovery went into space six times
during his first year but would make
perhaps its greatest impact on NASA

after the Challenger accident grounded
the shuttle fleet for more than two
years

when NASA was ready to send its
astronauts back into space again it was
discovery that rolled to the launch pad
to carry out the mission STS 26 STS 26
was a great event for the team
describe on how it would be it felt like
STS one all over again
discovery was rarely overshadowed during his career that changed in April 1990 when the shuttle launched NASA's Hubble Space Telescope deploying it on a mission that would alter the way we see our universe and our understanding of our place in it but when Hubble came along it was WOW this is this is a different payload discovery would see the Hubble telescope two more times in February 1997 and December 1999 on servicing missions that saw astronauts upgrade the telescope's instruments and system discovery also allowed unique
views of some of Earth's closest neighbors astronaut Bob Cabana flew into space for the first time aboard discovery in October 1990 on a mission to launch the Ulysses probe on the first mission to look at the sun's North and South Poles my first flight you know it's pretty amazing to be standing there it's 195-foot level looking at this machine that's alive it's venting it's creaking it's getting ready to go in space it says discovery on the side you know and you just cannot believe in three hours or so you're going to be inside there blasting off you know it
just it's it's amazing it really is
discovery was my only night launch and
standing on there with all the
floodlights on discovery where it's it's just surreal and you can hear all the
cryogenics it's very quiet at night you know everything creaking and groaning
it's just the most amazing sight that's
what I really remember about discovery from a visual perspective is seeing it
just bathed and all those
really bright lights at night on the pad
along with this important payload
discovery played its part in
international relations as well

cosmonaut Sergei krikalev became the first Russian to fly on a shuttle during Discovery's STS 60 flight in February 1994. Astronaut and former Senator John Glenn returned to orbit aboard Discovery in October 1998 after he made history as the first American to orbit Earth on February 20th, 1962, just as Discovery changed the people who flew aboard it. The spacecraft itself underwent numerous advances during its career; for example, technicians installed a glass cockpit in 2001 that replaced analog dials and...
instruments with modern digital displays

the spacecraft was also lightened as

test instruments for his first flights

were removed and modifications to other

systems shaved off more weight discovery

and all the NASA shuttles would undergo

one more metamorphosis after the

Columbia accident in February 2003 my

proudest moment was discovery would have

to be returned to flight after the

Columbia accident we basically found the

problem fix the problem and proved to

the world that we could continue flying

just as it had done 17 years before
discovery took the space to prove NASA's shuttle fleet was not finished marking its place in exploration history the overwhelming sense of launch team was that this is what we do we have to fly again along with sister shuttles Atlantis and endeavour discovery finished assembling the International Space Station and then helped take new parts supplies and experiments to the orbiting laboratory let's telling some employees here yesterday when you walk inside at a discovery and see it it still looks like a new car even after almost 30 years of
service discovery is expected to be put on public display after the Space Shuttle retires.

everyone here that has ever done anything associated with an orbiter will be will say I worked on discovery.

I think Discovery's just because it has flown so much it has been such a workhorse you know it flew returned to flight I think if you go back and look at all the missions at Swan it really has achieved some phenomenal successes and liftoff of discovery.

blazing a trail to scientific
discoveries of horses

you