



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,739
For astronauts their first flight is

2
00:00:01,740 --> 00:00:03,539
generally the the thing that's most

3
00:00:03,540 --> 00:00:05,608
exciting for them. That's the thing that they

4
00:00:05,609 --> 00:00:07,789
remember the most. And I still remember

5
00:00:07,790 --> 00:00:11,959
rocketing up, going from zero velocity to

6
00:00:11,960 --> 00:00:14,279
18,000 miles an hour in about eight and

7
00:00:14,280 --> 00:00:16,589
a half minutes so the ride up was

8
00:00:16,590 --> 00:00:19,019
exciting. And then the view on orbit is

9
00:00:19,020 --> 00:00:21,299
spectacular. You get to see the Earth

10
00:00:21,300 --> 00:00:25,319
from 150-260 miles up and you realize

11
00:00:25,320 --> 00:00:29,278
how wonderful this planet is and you get

12
00:00:29,279 --> 00:00:31,799
very pretty vistas and that sort of

13
00:00:31,800 --> 00:00:33,659

thing. And then the other thing that I

14

00:00:33,660 --> 00:00:40,799

enjoyed was zero-g. I enjoyed floating around in zero-g and the freedom that

15

00:00:40,800 --> 00:00:44,308

you have in zero-g. So for me, flying in

16

00:00:44,309 --> 00:00:47,159

space was a wonderful experience.

17

00:00:47,160 --> 00:00:50,788

I was excited about flying on STS-8. I

18

00:00:50,789 --> 00:00:52,738

recognized that I was opening the door

19

00:00:52,739 --> 00:00:55,019

for other African-Americans to fly in

20

00:00:55,020 --> 00:00:58,409

space, but I was also part of a team with

21

00:00:58,410 --> 00:00:59,878

reference to learning how to fly the

22

00:00:59,879 --> 00:01:01,999

shuttle at night, both launch

23

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,338

as well as landing. So I take a great

24

00:01:04,339 --> 00:01:07,009

deal of pride in that, not only for what