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00:00:00,719 --> 00:00:06,410

>> Welcome back to Mission Control Houston after that video about Karen Nyberg. And a

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00:00:06,410 --> 00:00:10,051

little peek into what it's like to be an astronaut with a family on the ground. We have with

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00:00:10,051 --> 00:00:13,530

us today Doug Hurley, her husband. Also an astronaut. Welcome, Doug.

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00:00:13,530 --> 00:00:18,690

>> It's great to be here, Kelly.

>> So, you know, there -- there's great things

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00:00:18,690 --> 00:00:23,130

about being an astronaut and flying in space that I personally will never get to experience.

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00:00:23,130 --> 00:00:29,289

But you guys both have had the opportunity to do that. We're really curious about what

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00:00:29,289 --> 00:00:34,121

it's like though when your loved one is away for a long trip like this. You know, you're

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00:00:34,121 --> 00:00:38,190

not -- there're many, many people in this country, in this world who have to spend long

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00:00:38,190 --> 00:00:44,810

periods away from their family. Armed forces folks in particular. Tell us a little bit

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00:00:44,810 --> 00:00:51,330

about what it's like to be away from your wife for so long. And how you manage having

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00:00:51,330 --> 00:00:55,620
a child, your son Jack, on the ground when she's up there.

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00:00:55,620 --> 00:00:59,670
>> Yeah. It's, obviously, a question I get a lot. You know, the first thing I'll say

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00:00:59,670 --> 00:01:06,560
is that the military folks, you know, know this very, very well. And, obviously, having

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00:01:06,560 --> 00:01:12,300
been in the Marine Corp for 25 years, I experienced several deployments. But I wasn't married.

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00:01:12,300 --> 00:01:16,670
Didn't have kids. So this is a little different being on the other end of it as well, you

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00:01:16,670 --> 00:01:23,740
know, being the one that's home. You know, I understand, you know, why she loves it so

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00:01:23,740 --> 00:01:27,729
much. Loves the job. Because it's the same thing I do. And -- and so that part of it

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00:01:27,729 --> 00:01:32,310
is really easy. But I also understand the risks. I also under the, you know, the length

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00:01:32,310 --> 00:01:37,310
of time. The things that can happen. But we have such a great support system here, you

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00:01:37,310 --> 00:01:42,530
know, with the video conferences on a weekly basis. And the IP phone. So it's really good

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00:01:42,530 --> 00:01:48,340
to stay connected. Really easy to stay connected.
So that part of it has been really nice. And

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00:01:48,340 --> 00:01:52,940
we have a great bunch of folks that support
us through that -- through the entire increment.

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00:01:52,940 --> 00:01:58,050
And that really makes a difference.
>> Well, let's just focus this a little bit

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00:01:58,050 --> 00:02:01,030
for the early days. Let -- how did you and
Karen meet in the first place?

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00:02:01,030 --> 00:02:06,720
>> Well, we were classmates, ASCANs together
in 2000. And, you know, eventually that blossomed

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00:02:06,720 --> 00:02:13,380
into something more. And, you know, once again,
I think, you know, we had similar career goals.

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00:02:13,380 --> 00:02:20,569
We had similar backgrounds. We grew up in
very small towns. And so we had a lot of common

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00:02:20,569 --> 00:02:26,310
background, if you will. And then the other
part of it was just, you know, she's an amazing

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00:02:26,310 --> 00:02:32,180
person. I mean, she's beautiful. She's smart.
Way smarter than the average bear. I mean,

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00:02:32,180 --> 00:02:36,470
especially, for a marine fighter pilot. And,
you know, it just -- we just hit it off from

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00:02:36,470 --> 00:02:41,960
day one. And it's been wonderful ever since.
>> So you and she have both flown Shuttle

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00:02:41,960 --> 00:02:46,700
flights and been apart from each other on
short duration missions prior to this. But

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00:02:46,700 --> 00:02:51,780
now you're into a long duration mission. You
have a son. Tell us a little bit about Jack

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00:02:51,780 --> 00:02:56,470
and how old he is. And how you guys have been
dealing with that long distance parenting

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00:02:56,470 --> 00:02:59,800
thing.
>> Yeah. The training flow for a long duration

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00:02:59,800 --> 00:03:04,100
kind of prepares you for some of this. Because
it starts, you know, two and a half or three

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00:03:04,100 --> 00:03:09,700
years before the flight starts. So these little
four -- and I call them little. It's your

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00:03:09,700 --> 00:03:14,910
perspective, I think. These little four, six,
seven week training trips get you at least

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00:03:14,910 --> 00:03:20,300
somewhat prepared for this big trip. Which
is -- ultimately, ends up being close to seven

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00:03:20,300 --> 00:03:25,709
months in our case. Because she had to leave
to do a last training trip in Russia before

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00:03:25,709 --> 00:03:28,739
even going to Kazakhstan for the launch. And then, of course, the five and a half months

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00:03:28,739 --> 00:03:35,200
in orbit. So it's -- it helps get you ready for that. And, of course, you know, with today's

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00:03:35,200 --> 00:03:41,090
modern conveniences of iPads and Skype and FaceTime and those things. I think Jack from

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00:03:41,090 --> 00:03:47,360
day one has been used to that. I actually found out we were going to have Jack just

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00:03:47,360 --> 00:03:53,870
prior to flying on STS-127, which was my first flight. And I watched her fly on STS-124.

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00:03:53,870 --> 00:04:00,050
We had started dating by then in 2008. And I told her when she got back that it was a

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00:04:00,050 --> 00:04:05,440
lot easier to be the one on the rocket than the one watching somebody go. And I think

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00:04:05,440 --> 00:04:09,920
most families would attest to that same thing. And I think there are folks in our office

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00:04:09,920 --> 00:04:16,079
that -- that, you know, maybe don't appreciate that quite as much as she and I do. So it

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00:04:16,079 --> 00:04:20,600
is much easier being the one going into space in that particular case than it is the one

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00:04:20,600 --> 00:04:24,889
watching somebody go. Because you're the one
that, you know, you have no control over your

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00:04:24,889 --> 00:04:31,150
destiny at that point. It's all up to physics
and what your spouse does. But it -- it helped

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00:04:31,150 --> 00:04:34,770
us get ready for this one, which, obviously,
is a little different than a Shuttle mission.

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00:04:34,770 --> 00:04:39,820
You know, this is -- this truly is a long
duration mission. It's a long time away. Family

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00:04:39,820 --> 00:04:46,320
separation, those kinds of things. So in lead
up to it with the training, you know. We came

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00:04:46,320 --> 00:04:50,250
up with ways, I think, like every family does
when they're separated to just kind of connect

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00:04:50,250 --> 00:04:54,580
and stay connected and what worked. And then
also trying to work around Jack's schedule.

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00:04:54,580 --> 00:04:58,071
Which, obviously, you can't, you know, with
the time change and all those things. You

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00:04:58,071 --> 00:05:03,500
can't manipulate his schedule. So Karen had
to adjust, you know, her schedule for times

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00:05:03,500 --> 00:05:06,710
that she wanted to talk to him or video with
him.

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00:05:06,710 --> 00:05:13,800
>> Okay. Well, so chasing down a youngster
Jack's age is not always easy. Can you tell

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00:05:13,800 --> 00:05:18,960
us -- can you give us a little insight into
what it's like to prepare for one of those

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00:05:18,960 --> 00:05:22,150
calls from Karen to make sure they connect
appropriately.

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00:05:22,150 --> 00:05:28,550
>> Yeah. Once again, I think part of it is
just he's known this almost since he was old

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00:05:28,550 --> 00:05:35,800
enough to remember anything. And so he's used
to being able to talk to mom on an iPad. So

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00:05:35,800 --> 00:05:39,860
that part of it is easy. I think the only
difference now is -- is we can't do this every

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00:05:39,860 --> 00:05:44,460
day. We can do it weekly. But, like I said,
with the tremendous amount of support we get

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00:05:44,460 --> 00:05:51,000
here, those video conferences are priceless.
And, of course, they're huge for Karen to

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:57,740
just be able to interact with -- with Jack.
You know, having a -- anybody who knows -- who's

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00:05:57,740 --> 00:06:04,280
had a -- young children knows that they change
every day at this age. And so it was very

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00:06:04,280 --> 00:06:08,979
important to her, obviously, to stay connected
with him as much as possible. You know, I'll

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00:06:08,979 --> 00:06:15,020
typically send videos or pictures every day
of Jack to her. And then she always sends

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00:06:15,020 --> 00:06:20,110
a video down every night for him that she
makes. So, you know, it's not without a lot

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00:06:20,110 --> 00:06:23,440
of effort. But it's, obviously, worth it.
Because I think, you know, that way we will

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00:06:23,440 --> 00:06:29,280
stay connected. And there won't be that unfamiliarity
that I think sometimes, you know, with the

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00:06:29,280 --> 00:06:32,770
military deployments happen. Where you can't
say this connected. So we're really lucky

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00:06:32,770 --> 00:06:37,880
in that -- in that regard.
>> We are coming up on Karen's one thousandth

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00:06:37,880 --> 00:06:39,700
day, I believe.
>> Hundredth day.

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00:06:39,700 --> 00:06:40,700
[Multiple speakers]

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00:06:40,700 --> 00:06:41,700
Hundredth day [inaudible].
>> I think it's today.

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00:06:41,700 --> 00:06:42,850

>> Yeah. It is today.

>> I think it's today.

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00:06:42,850 --> 00:06:47,730

>> And so we're actually looking at a picture of her live as she's working in the Kibo Module

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00:06:47,730 --> 00:06:52,660

of the International Space Station right now. Are you starting to count the days to when

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00:06:52,660 --> 00:06:57,259

she comes home?

>> I'm not going to admit to anything here,

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00:06:57,259 --> 00:07:02,270

Kelly. But yeah. Obviously, you know, it feels like it's been a hundred days for me. I'm

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00:07:02,270 --> 00:07:08,250

sure for her it probably has gone by pretty fast. You know, remembering my Shuttle flights,

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00:07:08,250 --> 00:07:14,500

it just seemed like those missions went by in almost a blink of an eye. But yeah. I'd

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00:07:14,500 --> 00:07:18,759

say there's a little bit of that. But, you know, I'm just so proud of what she's done

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00:07:18,759 --> 00:07:23,630

and how she's represented herself and NASA. It's a great crew up there, you know, with

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00:07:23,630 --> 00:07:30,790

Luca and Chris and Pavel and everybody, Fyodor. So -- and I think they're looking forward

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00:07:30,790 --> 00:07:35,729

to, you know, obviously, the next crew. And then the nine folks they'll have there towards

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00:07:35,729 --> 00:07:40,470

the end of the increment. It's going to be sad to see Chris go. And, obviously, I know

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00:07:40,470 --> 00:07:45,000

Chris pretty well. Because I flew with him on STS-127. So I'm sure he's kind of going

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00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:51,009

through those -- those kind of the end of the mission, you know. The tug-of-war between,

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00:07:51,009 --> 00:07:55,360

I'm excited to go home. But it's going to be hard to leave this place. And I -- I think

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00:07:55,360 --> 00:07:58,430

if you've gotten the most out of your mission, that's how you're going to feel towards the

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00:07:58,430 --> 00:08:03,639

end of it.

>> Have one last question before we wrap this

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00:08:03,639 --> 00:08:09,610

up. Have you - have you had any incidents with your son that -- that led to mom having

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00:08:09,610 --> 00:08:15,191

to say, Jack, you got to do this? Or has it gotten to that point? Or do you try and stay

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00:08:15,191 --> 00:08:19,389

away from that kind of a thing?

>> Well, yeah. I think, you know, he's -- I

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00:08:19,389 --> 00:08:25,300

know all parents say this. But he's a pretty good kid. And he's very adaptable to the -- kind

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00:08:25,300 --> 00:08:30,360

of the way things have been. This is all he's ever known -- is, you know. You know, he was

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00:08:30,360 --> 00:08:35,539

born in February. And Karen was assigned to this flight in that, you know, few months

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00:08:35,539 --> 00:08:40,590

later in July. So -- and started traveling, you know, overseas shortly thereafter. So

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00:08:40,590 --> 00:08:45,050

he -- since he was less than a year old, has just -- this is all he's ever known. I think

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00:08:45,050 --> 00:08:48,879

it's going to be more interesting to see what it's like in a couple years when, you know,

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00:08:48,879 --> 00:08:55,530

both of us are around all the time. But no, you know, he's been -- he's been super. And

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00:08:55,530 --> 00:09:00,149

-- and it's kind of hard to do that, you know. By the time you have an episode or whatever,

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00:09:00,149 --> 00:09:04,139

you know, anecdote you had to tell her. You know, by the time you see her again on the

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00:09:04,139 --> 00:09:08,220

video conferences, it's -- there's already four, five things that's happened since then

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00:09:08,220 --> 00:09:12,470

so. That's why I try to send pictures or videos of him every day. Just to -- so she can just

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00:09:12,470 --> 00:09:18,389

kind of see the progression of, you know, when she last saw him in late April to November.

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00:09:18,389 --> 00:09:23,059

>> Yeah. When she gets home, he'll have grown.
>> I think he already has quite a bit. I -- that's

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00:09:23,059 --> 00:09:26,899

what I was trying to see if we could just say, hey, slow down a little bit. Don't grow

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00:09:26,899 --> 00:09:30,419

too much more before she gets back. But he's not listening.

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00:09:30,419 --> 00:09:35,061

>> And I'm sure he'll have learned a lot too.
>> Yeah. Some of it may be -- yeah. Probably

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00:09:35,061 --> 00:09:39,949

his vocabulary may have gone a little bit towards the Marine Corp maybe a little more

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00:09:39,949 --> 00:09:42,819

than it should. But other than that, he's doing really well.

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00:09:42,819 --> 00:09:46,699

>> All right. Well, Doug Hurley, thanks a whole lot for being with us here today. And

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00:09:46,699 --> 00:09:53,300

sharing this personal side of your relationship with your wife and your son. And this unusual

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00:09:53,300 --> 00:09:59,610

set of circumstances. It's really nice of you and Karen to share this with the folks

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00:09:59,610 --> 00:10:04,240

out there who are interested in what it's like to be an astronaut. And to do all this

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00:10:04,240 --> 00:10:08,980

important research on the Space Station. You guys make it possible to do that kind of thing

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00:10:08,980 --> 00:10:12,720

with your sacrifices. And I know the country appreciates what you're doing.

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00:10:12,720 --> 00:10:17,069

>> Well, thanks. You know, the thing I'd like to just leave folks with is, you know, we're

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00:10:17,069 --> 00:10:21,749

regular folks who have a really cool job. And the rest of it is we're just like a couple

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00:10:21,749 --> 00:10:26,799

working parents just like everybody else is. So, you know, we just get to ride a rocket

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00:10:26,799 --> 00:10:29,649

every now and again.

>> All right. Doug Hurley, thanks a lot.

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00:10:29,649 --> 00:10:32,649

>> Thanks, Kelly.

>> And remember that you can keep track of

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00:10:32,649 --> 00:10:39,880

Karen Nyberg's flight on the Space Station website at www.nasa.gov/station. And you can

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00:10:39,880 --> 00:10:45,889

follow her on Twitter at @astrokarenn. There's also lots of information on the International

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00:10:45,889 --> 00:10:51,709

Space Station Facebook account and elsewhere available to you. And we'll keep you in track