



1
00:00:06,550 --> 00:00:03,270
hi so i'm here with astronaut megan

2
00:00:08,390 --> 00:00:06,560
macarthur who has a long history of

3
00:00:10,150 --> 00:00:08,400
being friends and coworkers with karen

4
00:00:12,230 --> 00:00:10,160
nyberg thanks for joining us to talk a

5
00:00:14,310 --> 00:00:12,240
little bit more about this special lady

6
00:00:15,430 --> 00:00:14,320
that we have in space sure

7
00:00:17,269 --> 00:00:15,440
why don't you tell us a little bit about

8
00:00:19,029 --> 00:00:17,279
when you first met karen and how that

9
00:00:21,269 --> 00:00:19,039
friendship developed well karen and i

10
00:00:23,029 --> 00:00:21,279
were hired together in the class of 2000

11
00:00:24,550 --> 00:00:23,039
astronaut candidates so karen was

12
00:00:25,990 --> 00:00:24,560
actually pretty much the first person i

13
00:00:27,990 --> 00:00:26,000

met when i stepped off the plane in

14

00:00:29,429 --> 00:00:28,000

houston we were going together with

15

00:00:31,669 --> 00:00:29,439

another one of our classmates drew

16

00:00:33,430 --> 00:00:31,679

feustel to a training event in florida

17

00:00:35,430 --> 00:00:33,440

that we had to get done before the rest

18

00:00:37,030 --> 00:00:35,440

of the astronaut candidates showed up so

19

00:00:38,709 --> 00:00:37,040

really we've been friends from that

20

00:00:41,190 --> 00:00:38,719

point from the first moment that i that

21

00:00:42,470 --> 00:00:41,200

i set foot in houston and it's been it's

22

00:00:43,990 --> 00:00:42,480

been a great adventure together we've

23

00:00:45,990 --> 00:00:44,000

done a lot of training and and been

24

00:00:48,150 --> 00:00:46,000

through a lot of uh life challenges

25

00:00:49,670 --> 00:00:48,160

together she was um my house flooded

26
00:00:52,229 --> 00:00:49,680
about three weeks before i was supposed

27
00:00:53,830 --> 00:00:52,239
to launch in space in 2008 and she was

28
00:00:55,029 --> 00:00:53,840
right there with me helping sort through

29
00:00:56,790 --> 00:00:55,039
through the debris with some of our

30
00:00:58,389 --> 00:00:56,800
other good friends so you know you can't

31
00:01:00,470 --> 00:00:58,399
say better than that she's been a very

32
00:01:02,229 --> 00:01:00,480
good friend to me for the 13 years that

33
00:01:03,670 --> 00:01:02,239
we've been together at nasa i think

34
00:01:05,670 --> 00:01:03,680
there's always a special bond with

35
00:01:07,190 --> 00:01:05,680
people that were your classmates from

36
00:01:09,190 --> 00:01:07,200
arriving at nasa

37
00:01:11,350 --> 00:01:09,200
um so tell us a little bit about karen

38
00:01:12,870 --> 00:01:11,360

what is she like on this friend level uh

39

00:01:14,310 --> 00:01:12,880

karen is a great friend like i said

40

00:01:16,070 --> 00:01:14,320

she's been she's really been there for

41

00:01:18,390 --> 00:01:16,080

me through a lot of things uh both in

42

00:01:20,550 --> 00:01:18,400

training and in life and she's a lot of

43

00:01:22,070 --> 00:01:20,560

fun she has a great sense of humor

44

00:01:23,830 --> 00:01:22,080

she's a big runner of course everybody

45

00:01:25,429 --> 00:01:23,840

that knows karen knows that about her

46

00:01:27,670 --> 00:01:25,439

and so she even got me running a little

47

00:01:30,390 --> 00:01:27,680

bit uh with her in the in especially in

48

00:01:33,030 --> 00:01:30,400

the early days she's very dedicated uh

49

00:01:35,109 --> 00:01:33,040

to her career and she also has a lot of

50

00:01:37,030 --> 00:01:35,119

very interesting hobbies which i've

51
00:01:38,550 --> 00:01:37,040
learned about her over the years yeah so

52
00:01:40,710 --> 00:01:38,560
tell us a little bit i think we're all

53
00:01:42,310 --> 00:01:40,720
starting to learn and see some of her

54
00:01:43,910 --> 00:01:42,320
her handiworks and her first sewing and

55
00:01:45,749 --> 00:01:43,920
things that she's sharing on pinterest

56
00:01:47,830 --> 00:01:45,759
and twitter but when did you start to

57
00:01:48,950 --> 00:01:47,840
see that side of her well when i had

58
00:01:50,870 --> 00:01:48,960
been here for a couple of weeks she

59
00:01:52,230 --> 00:01:50,880
invited me over to her house karen lived

60
00:01:54,149 --> 00:01:52,240
in houston already she'd already been

61
00:01:56,230 --> 00:01:54,159
working for nasa when we started in the

62
00:01:58,149 --> 00:01:56,240
astronaut program and so she invited me

63
00:01:59,830 --> 00:01:58,159

over to her house and as i was walking

64

00:02:02,149 --> 00:01:59,840

up to the door i hear this beautiful

65

00:02:03,590 --> 00:02:02,159

piano concerto pouring you know off the

66

00:02:05,429 --> 00:02:03,600

stereo and i thought wow you know she

67

00:02:07,109 --> 00:02:05,439

really likes classical music and then i

68

00:02:09,109 --> 00:02:07,119

ring the doorbell and the music suddenly

69

00:02:10,229 --> 00:02:09,119

cuts off and she opened the door and i

70

00:02:11,270 --> 00:02:10,239

realized she was actually playing the

71

00:02:13,030 --> 00:02:11,280

piano

72

00:02:14,710 --> 00:02:13,040

it was this beautiful music

73

00:02:16,630 --> 00:02:14,720

as i was walking up to the house so that

74

00:02:18,470 --> 00:02:16,640

was sort of my first clue and then you

75

00:02:20,070 --> 00:02:18,480

see the paintings that she has in her

76
00:02:21,990 --> 00:02:20,080
home and you ask about them and you find

77
00:02:24,150 --> 00:02:22,000
out that she's actually done them she

78
00:02:26,630 --> 00:02:24,160
sews some of her own clothing

79
00:02:29,030 --> 00:02:26,640
she really just has this broad spectrum

80
00:02:31,030 --> 00:02:29,040
of talents creative talents that are

81
00:02:32,710 --> 00:02:31,040
very well developed not just dabbling i

82
00:02:34,949 --> 00:02:32,720
mean there's something she's very you

83
00:02:36,229 --> 00:02:34,959
know very detail oriented

84
00:02:38,309 --> 00:02:36,239
and you see that in all of the things

85
00:02:39,750 --> 00:02:38,319
that she does wow so a perfectionist

86
00:02:41,190 --> 00:02:39,760
through and throughout absolutely yeah

87
00:02:43,030 --> 00:02:41,200
absolutely so that you know sort of

88
00:02:44,390 --> 00:02:43,040

mirrors the technical side

89

00:02:46,949 --> 00:02:44,400

she's very

90

00:02:48,550 --> 00:02:46,959

accomplished in engineering which also

91

00:02:50,390 --> 00:02:48,560

requires a really detail-oriented

92

00:02:52,309 --> 00:02:50,400

mindset and then she's very accomplished

93

00:02:53,990 --> 00:02:52,319

in all of her creative hobbies as well

94

00:02:55,589 --> 00:02:54,000

so i see that as kind of the reflection

95

00:02:58,229 --> 00:02:55,599

of each other that's one thing that i

96

00:02:59,670 --> 00:02:58,239

think is interesting is that some of us

97

00:03:01,270 --> 00:02:59,680

would make this assumption that if

98

00:03:02,869 --> 00:03:01,280

you're a technical

99

00:03:04,070 --> 00:03:02,879

person working in a technical field or

100

00:03:05,830 --> 00:03:04,080

you've got a technical background in

101
00:03:07,990 --> 00:03:05,840
this case engineering that you wouldn't

102
00:03:09,990 --> 00:03:08,000
have this this other side that's

103
00:03:11,830 --> 00:03:10,000
considered more creative but really even

104
00:03:13,589 --> 00:03:11,840
with some of these creative hobbies that

105
00:03:14,470 --> 00:03:13,599
she has there are technical aspects i'm

106
00:03:16,550 --> 00:03:14,480
learning more and more about the

107
00:03:18,309 --> 00:03:16,560
quilting and that's actually a lot of

108
00:03:20,149 --> 00:03:18,319
math involved in geometry and technical

109
00:03:21,990 --> 00:03:20,159
so what would you say to people who

110
00:03:23,670 --> 00:03:22,000
might make that assumption well i think

111
00:03:24,869 --> 00:03:23,680
they definitely are complementary like

112
00:03:26,470 --> 00:03:24,879
you said there's a lot of technical

113
00:03:29,830 --> 00:03:26,480

aspects in the type of craft work that

114

00:03:31,830 --> 00:03:29,840

she does very detail-oriented um and in

115

00:03:33,830 --> 00:03:31,840

addition to which you know solving even

116

00:03:35,509 --> 00:03:33,840

in an engineering sense can be very

117

00:03:38,229 --> 00:03:35,519

creative and so having that creative

118

00:03:39,910 --> 00:03:38,239

mindset is um is very helpful for for

119

00:03:41,190 --> 00:03:39,920

even technical problem solving so i

120

00:03:43,110 --> 00:03:41,200

think that they're very complimentary

121

00:03:44,070 --> 00:03:43,120

and not that surprising we have a number

122

00:03:45,270 --> 00:03:44,080

of people

123

00:03:47,270 --> 00:03:45,280

i think in the astronaut office that

124

00:03:48,229 --> 00:03:47,280

have similar type of complementary

125

00:03:50,390 --> 00:03:48,239

skills

126

00:03:51,830 --> 00:03:50,400

so you touched on a little bit of that

127

00:03:53,589 --> 00:03:51,840

you've seen some of the beautiful things

128

00:03:55,750 --> 00:03:53,599

that she's done and i know i've seen a

129

00:03:57,990 --> 00:03:55,760

few photos can you tell us about some of

130

00:04:00,149 --> 00:03:58,000

the the gifts or items that you've seen

131

00:04:01,750 --> 00:04:00,159

or received from karen absolutely as a

132

00:04:03,750 --> 00:04:01,760

wedding gift she gave me this beautiful

133

00:04:05,270 --> 00:04:03,760

hand-painted tray

134

00:04:06,789 --> 00:04:05,280

and in fact she wasn't at the party when

135

00:04:08,070 --> 00:04:06,799

i received the gift so i initially

136

00:04:09,670 --> 00:04:08,080

thought that she had purchased it

137

00:04:12,229 --> 00:04:09,680

somewhere and i wondered where she had

138

00:04:14,229 --> 00:04:12,239

found it and you know when i finally

139

00:04:15,990 --> 00:04:14,239

spoke to her and thanked her for it she

140

00:04:17,749 --> 00:04:16,000

started making some apologies for it

141

00:04:19,749 --> 00:04:17,759

that it wasn't absolutely perfect and i

142

00:04:21,189 --> 00:04:19,759

didn't quite understand until i realized

143

00:04:23,189 --> 00:04:21,199

she had actually painted it and and

144

00:04:25,350 --> 00:04:23,199

finished it herself and of course it's

145

00:04:27,189 --> 00:04:25,360

completely perfect and and only karen's

146

00:04:28,469 --> 00:04:27,199

eye could find any any blemish in it

147

00:04:30,390 --> 00:04:28,479

it's a beautiful

148

00:04:33,510 --> 00:04:30,400

tray with a painting of a flower and a

149

00:04:35,189 --> 00:04:33,520

ladybug our class nickname is the bugs

150

00:04:36,469 --> 00:04:35,199

and so you know we would joke that the

151
00:04:37,990 --> 00:04:36,479
three women in our class were the three

152
00:04:39,749 --> 00:04:38,000
ladybugs and so it was this beautiful

153
00:04:41,510 --> 00:04:39,759
painting that has a lot of meaning for

154
00:04:43,030 --> 00:04:41,520
our friendship as well as just being a

155
00:04:44,710 --> 00:04:43,040
beautiful work of art for my home so

156
00:04:46,629 --> 00:04:44,720
it's something i really treasure wow

157
00:04:48,710 --> 00:04:46,639
well thank you so much for sharing some

158
00:04:50,150 --> 00:04:48,720
of this background with us i think we're

159
00:04:52,710 --> 00:04:50,160
all very fortunate to have karen on

160
00:04:54,150 --> 00:04:52,720
board willing to share this side and

161
00:04:56,310 --> 00:04:54,160
using her creative talents to kind of

162
00:04:58,710 --> 00:04:56,320
help share her experience so thanks so

163
00:05:00,790 --> 00:04:58,720

much for opening up and sharing a little

164

00:05:02,310 --> 00:05:00,800

more insight into karen and your