



1
00:00:00,906 --> 00:00:04,086
>> Rick Mastracchio is a native
of Waterbury, Connecticut

2
00:00:04,466 --> 00:00:08,116
and grew up there in the 1960s
interested in the space program,

3
00:00:08,276 --> 00:00:11,776
but not with the idea that
he'd ever fly in space himself.

4
00:00:12,086 --> 00:00:13,376
>> Rick Mastracchio:
When I was a small kid,

5
00:00:13,376 --> 00:00:15,196
I didn't know you could
even be an astronaut.

6
00:00:15,196 --> 00:00:18,086
It never occurred to me I
could be an astronaut someday.

7
00:00:18,086 --> 00:00:21,056
But I was always interested
in math and science.

8
00:00:21,246 --> 00:00:23,036
I was always interested
when the teacher spoke

9
00:00:23,036 --> 00:00:26,046
about the aviation-related
topics or space,

10
00:00:26,496 --> 00:00:28,856
science-related topics even
when I was in grade school.

11
00:00:29,836 --> 00:00:32,516
>> He took those interests to
the University of Connecticut --

12
00:00:32,726 --> 00:00:35,216
the first person in his family
ever to go to college --

13
00:00:35,666 --> 00:00:38,946
and earned a bachelor of science
degree in electrical engineering

14
00:00:38,946 --> 00:00:42,386
and computer science, which got
him a job a Hamilton Standard

15
00:00:42,616 --> 00:00:45,376
developing guidance and flight
control systems while he

16
00:00:45,376 --> 00:00:48,066
finished a master's of science
in electrical engineering

17
00:00:48,226 --> 00:00:49,646
at Rensselaer Polytechnic.

18
00:00:50,006 --> 00:00:52,976
At that time, he saw
an ad from NASA looking

19
00:00:52,976 --> 00:00:55,246
for new astronauts
and decided to apply.

20
00:00:55,846 --> 00:00:58,776
What he got was a job
offer from Rockwell to work

21

00:00:58,776 --> 00:01:02,406
in shuttle operations, and
he moved to Houston in 1987.

22

00:01:03,116 --> 00:01:06,516
Three years later he joined
NASA as an engineer specializing

23

00:01:06,516 --> 00:01:09,856
in software development, then
became a flight controller

24

00:01:09,856 --> 00:01:12,216
in ascent [phonetic] and
entry guidance and procedures

25

00:01:12,516 --> 00:01:15,136
and was selected as
an astronaut in 1996

26

00:01:15,456 --> 00:01:17,246
after nine years of applying.

27

00:01:17,916 --> 00:01:20,816
His first space shuttle
flight was the 2000 mission

28

00:01:20,816 --> 00:01:23,786
that outfitted the International
Space Station's new Zvezda

29

00:01:23,786 --> 00:01:25,876
module for its first
permanent crew.

30

00:01:26,486 --> 00:01:29,626
He made three space walks during
his second trip to the station

31

00:01:29,786 --> 00:01:33,526

in 2007 on a mission that delivered a truss segment

32

00:01:33,526 --> 00:01:36,726

and a new gyroscope,
and three more EVAs

33

00:01:36,886 --> 00:01:39,216

on a 2010 resupply mission.

34

00:01:39,826 --> 00:01:41,436

He sees this station as a means

35

00:01:41,436 --> 00:01:44,846

to support inevitable
exploration well beyond the

36

00:01:44,846 --> 00:01:46,846

neighborhood of this
blue planet.

37

00:01:48,026 --> 00:01:49,856

>> Rick Mastracchio: We
are meant to explore --

38

00:01:50,176 --> 00:01:52,686

"we" being the people
here on this planet Earth.

39

00:01:52,686 --> 00:01:54,396

We want to go out and
see what's out there.

40

00:01:54,396 --> 00:01:56,716

We want to know more
about things.

41

00:01:56,716 --> 00:01:58,826

And we can't just do that
through robotic systems.

