



Astronaut

at a Glance

1
00:00:05,004 --> 00:00:07,707
I think you know I've always had
a high esteem for astronauts in

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00:00:07,707 --> 00:00:10,510
the past because of
what they get to do.

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00:00:10,510 --> 00:00:13,313
You know they've taken the risk
to fly in space and to go places

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00:00:13,313 --> 00:00:16,049
where very few people have been
before, but you know we don't

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00:00:16,049 --> 00:00:18,051
look at it that way
amongst ourselves.

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00:00:18,051 --> 00:00:21,354
You know we just...it's a job,
albeit a great job but it's

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00:00:21,354 --> 00:00:24,524
something we love to do and
we're just very lucky we

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00:00:24,524 --> 00:00:25,625
actually get paid to do it.

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00:00:25,625 --> 00:00:26,826
I loved my time at UC Berkeley.

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00:00:26,826 --> 00:00:29,496
It was a great school; a
really neat experience.

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00:00:29,496 --> 00:00:33,133

I picked engineering because I was good in science and math in

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00:00:33,133 --> 00:00:36,469

high school and I thought that would be a good field to be in,

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00:00:36,469 --> 00:00:39,639

but I originally actually picked aeronautical engineering but

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00:00:39,639 --> 00:00:42,108

when I sent my application in and got the letter back saying,

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00:00:42,108 --> 00:00:44,611

"You've been accepted to Cal," it said, "You've been accepted

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00:00:44,611 --> 00:00:46,980

in mechanical engineering." I'm like, "Mechanical engineering,

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00:00:46,980 --> 00:00:47,981

what's that?"

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00:00:47,981 --> 00:00:50,150

And so I wasn't sure what it was but I called over and they told

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00:00:50,150 --> 00:00:52,419

me it's very similar to aeronautical engineering and so

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00:00:52,419 --> 00:00:56,356

I took some classes and kept going and ended up staying 4

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00:00:56,356 --> 00:01:00,360

years in a major I really

hadn't planned on majoring in.

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00:01:00,360 --> 00:01:03,463
At U of H I was going to school
there while I was working here

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00:01:03,463 --> 00:01:05,899
as an engineer so it was a
little bit hard because I had to

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00:01:05,899 --> 00:01:08,034
you know work during the day and
then go to school at night and

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00:01:08,034 --> 00:01:10,570
study at night so it was
tricky but kind of fun.

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00:01:10,570 --> 00:01:14,073
I enjoyed doing my day job and
then doing something different

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00:01:14,073 --> 00:01:16,142
at night, studying
industrial engineering.

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00:01:16,142 --> 00:01:18,478
I've been here for 18 years.

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00:01:18,478 --> 00:01:23,249
I was part of the class of 1996
so we came here and had our 2

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00:01:23,249 --> 00:01:25,819
years of basic
astronaut training.

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00:01:25,819 --> 00:01:28,888
And then we had various jobs in
the Astronaut Office while we

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00:01:28,888 --> 00:01:31,558
were waiting to be assigned so
I worked developing some of the

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00:01:31,558 --> 00:01:34,994
procedures for the Space Station
and I worked as a CAPCOM in the

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00:01:34,994 --> 00:01:37,497
Control Center for the
International Space Station.

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00:01:37,497 --> 00:01:41,501
And then got assigned to my
first mission, STS-110, and flew

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00:01:41,501 --> 00:01:43,536
in 2002 to the Space Station.

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00:01:43,536 --> 00:01:47,240
We put an external truss called
the "S0 truss" on the Space

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00:01:47,240 --> 00:01:51,077
Station and I got to do 2 space
walks as the rookie spacewalker

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00:01:51,077 --> 00:01:52,078
then.

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00:01:52,078 --> 00:01:56,382
And then a few years later, I
got assigned to STS-122 which

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00:01:56,382 --> 00:01:58,718
was to add the European
Columbus, this laboratory module

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00:01:58,718 --> 00:02:00,920
onto the Space Station and
my job was to be the lead

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00:02:00,920 --> 00:02:03,156
spacewalker there so I did
3 more spacewalks and helped

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00:02:03,156 --> 00:02:09,963
attach and outfit and get the
Columbus module ready for use.

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00:02:09,963 --> 00:02:15,768
And then my final flight was
in 2011; it was the final Space

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00:02:15,768 --> 00:02:17,403
Shuttle flight, STS-135.

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00:02:17,403 --> 00:02:19,806
And that was a resupply mission
to go to the Space Station to

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00:02:19,806 --> 00:02:22,642
stock it up before the Space
Shuttle stopped flying.

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00:02:22,642 --> 00:02:24,644
Well I was always
interested in space.

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00:02:24,644 --> 00:02:26,813
From a young child, I thought
it would be great to be an

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00:02:26,813 --> 00:02:28,815
astronaut and fly in space
someday but I really didn't

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00:02:28,815 --> 00:02:30,817

think it was possible
necessarily so it was kind of

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00:02:30,817 --> 00:02:32,819

one of those things you
put on the back burner.

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00:02:32,819 --> 00:02:35,021

But as I went along in my career
and got some of the experience

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00:02:35,021 --> 00:02:39,425

that NASA was looking for, I
figured it would be worth you