



# Astronaut

at a Glance

1  
00:00:05,138 --> 00:00:07,941  
We all feel very lucky and  
very blessed that we had this

2  
00:00:07,941 --> 00:00:11,111  
opportunity to look back at  
the planet and you just want to

3  
00:00:11,111 --> 00:00:13,913  
share that with people, you want  
to get the best camera, the best

4  
00:00:13,913 --> 00:00:17,117  
pictures out there because even  
with those things you can't

5  
00:00:17,117 --> 00:00:20,220  
really duplicate what we see  
with our own two eyes while

6  
00:00:20,220 --> 00:00:21,755  
we're in the space craft.

7  
00:00:21,755 --> 00:00:24,591  
It's just an amazing  
planet, an amazing universe.

8  
00:00:24,591 --> 00:00:28,128  
I born in Cleveland, Ohio but  
in Needham, Massachusetts so I

9  
00:00:28,128 --> 00:00:31,898  
consider Massachusetts my home  
town, went to public schools in

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00:00:31,898 --> 00:00:32,899  
Needham.

11  
00:00:32,899 --> 00:00:36,669

At the time I thought it was  
sort of a small school, we

12

00:00:36,669 --> 00:00:40,140  
graduated with about 500 people  
so hence I've learned it's not

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00:00:40,140 --> 00:00:42,709  
such a small school.went to  
school and of course I had a

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00:00:42,709 --> 00:00:44,811  
brother and a sister, they're  
both older than me, they both

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00:00:44,811 --> 00:00:48,782  
did very good in school so I was  
expected to do very good as well

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00:00:48,782 --> 00:00:51,284  
as all the teacher in high  
school go oh I know your

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00:00:51,284 --> 00:00:54,254  
brother, I know your sister so  
of course you have to do well

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00:00:54,254 --> 00:00:55,255  
too.

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00:00:55,255 --> 00:00:58,925  
So I did pretty good in high  
school and hen I graduated I was

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00:00:58,925 --> 00:01:02,195  
hoping to go to college  
somewhere in the area because of

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00:01:02,195 --> 00:01:08,101  
course Boston has great schools

but much to my dismay when I was

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00:01:08,101 --> 00:01:11,304

17 years old I actually didn't  
get into my first choices of

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00:01:11,304 --> 00:01:12,839

colleges.

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00:01:12,839 --> 00:01:15,508

So I applied for the Naval  
Academy amongst other schools

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00:01:15,508 --> 00:01:17,944

and I got in The story that  
I tell a lot of people at the

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00:01:17,944 --> 00:01:22,515

time, I had really long hair, a  
little Indian kid and couldn't

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00:01:22,515 --> 00:01:25,685

even foresee cutting it off and  
of course first day at the naval

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00:01:25,685 --> 00:01:28,955

academy they chop your hair off  
so that was a little shocking.

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00:01:28,955 --> 00:01:32,625

You become very bonded there  
with your classmates, I was the

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00:01:32,625 --> 00:01:36,863

class of 87 and you just want to  
graduate and you want to be part

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00:01:36,863 --> 00:01:40,700

of that team. So after college I  
went down to Pensacola, Florida

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00:01:40,700 --> 00:01:44,704  
and I started flight school,  
again hoping to fly jets but I

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00:01:44,704 --> 00:01:48,541  
actually got helicopters, at  
that point in time there were

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00:01:48,541 --> 00:01:51,544  
only a couple women jet pilot  
opportunities, a lot more

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00:01:51,544 --> 00:01:53,546  
helicopter opportunities  
so that's what I got.

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00:01:53,546 --> 00:01:57,884  
Came down here to Johnson Space  
Center as a tour, met John

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00:01:57,884 --> 00:02:01,521  
Young, he talked about flying  
to the moon and he's been there

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00:02:01,521 --> 00:02:04,390  
twice so I think he knows  
a little bit about it.

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00:02:04,390 --> 00:02:07,760  
He talked about landing on the  
moon and learning how to fly

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00:02:07,760 --> 00:02:11,698  
some kind of vertical landing  
aircraft and I thought to myself

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00:02:11,698 --> 00:02:14,534  
wow I already know how to do  
that so maybe I should look into

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00:02:14,534 --> 00:02:16,536

this a little bit  
more seriously.

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00:02:16,536 --> 00:02:20,773

I started in 1998 and it's a  
little bit of a long road, first

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00:02:20,773 --> 00:02:24,077

couple of years are ASCAN  
training, astronaut candidate

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00:02:24,077 --> 00:02:26,980

training where you just sort  
of learn about space craft, you

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00:02:26,980 --> 00:02:31,217

learn about your classmates,  
you learn about the different

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00:02:31,217 --> 00:02:35,889

aspects of flying in space  
like EVA's and space walks and

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00:02:35,889 --> 00:02:36,890

robotic operations.

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00:02:36,890 --> 00:02:43,863

In 2003 I was asked to be part  
of a long duration mission to

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00:02:43,863 --> 00:02:47,333

the International Space  
Station and I was like amazed.

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00:02:47,333 --> 00:02:50,336

I went up on the space shuttle  
Discovery on STS116, they

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00:02:50,336 --> 00:02:54,707

dropped me off at the space station like a school bus drops

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00:02:54,707 --> 00:02:58,111

the kids off and 6 months later another school bus Atlantis

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00:02:58,111 --> 00:03:02,215

STS117 came and picked me back up.

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00:03:02,215 --> 00:03:05,885

In the meantime while we were up there we were at a stage where

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00:03:05,885 --> 00:03:07,887

right in the middle of constructing the space stations

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00:03:07,887 --> 00:03:10,490

so lots of things were dynamically changing on the

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00:03:10,490 --> 00:03:14,327

space station meaning visible parts and pieces, we ended up

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00:03:14,327 --> 00:03:16,429

doing four space walks while I was up there.

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00:03:16,429 --> 00:03:19,232

I finally got to go back in space again five years later in

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00:03:19,232 --> 00:03:25,104

2012, I went up this time on a Russian Soyuz vehicle and came

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00:03:25,104 --> 00:03:29,242

back on the same one because we  
use Soyuz more like a life boat

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00:03:29,242 --> 00:03:37,150

versus a school bus to transport  
people and parts and stuff like

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00:03:37,150 --> 00:03:38,151

that.

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00:03:38,151 --> 00:03:41,621

And I got to be the commander  
of expedition of 33, flew with a

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00:03:41,621 --> 00:03:44,524

Japanese guy, Akihiko Hoshide,  
and also a Russian guy, Yuri

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00:03:44,524 --> 00:03:47,760

Malenchenko, my good buddy as  
well as seeing other groups of

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00:03:47,760 --> 00:03:50,096

Soyuz crews coming in  
before hand and after.

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00:03:50,096 --> 00:03:55,301

So pretty busy time frame again,  
this time the space station was