



**SPACESTATION
LIVE**

1
00:00:09,910 --> 00:00:07,909
the month of february is national

2
00:00:12,310 --> 00:00:09,920
african american history month and nasa

3
00:00:14,470 --> 00:00:12,320
joins the celebration um to honor the

4
00:00:16,230 --> 00:00:14,480
some of the contributions of african

5
00:00:18,070 --> 00:00:16,240
americans that have dedicated their

6
00:00:20,710 --> 00:00:18,080
lives to space flight and the pursuit of

7
00:00:22,790 --> 00:00:20,720
discovery today we'll be discussing this

8
00:00:24,150 --> 00:00:22,800
subject with uh sheila yomapay a

9
00:00:25,750 --> 00:00:24,160
biomedical engineer and a flight

10
00:00:27,029 --> 00:00:25,760
controller here at the johnson space

11
00:00:30,150 --> 00:00:27,039
center sheila thanks for being with us

12
00:00:31,189 --> 00:00:30,160
today happy to be here okay so um tell

13
00:00:32,950 --> 00:00:31,199

us a little bit about what the

14

00:00:35,510 --> 00:00:32,960

observance of this particular holiday

15

00:00:38,790 --> 00:00:35,520

means to you and to space flight

16

00:00:41,430 --> 00:00:38,800

i think for me it has changed over time

17

00:00:43,990 --> 00:00:41,440

having been raised in ghana i

18

00:00:47,190 --> 00:00:44,000

once i moved here it was for me a

19

00:00:49,990 --> 00:00:47,200

learning time and also

20

00:00:52,869 --> 00:00:50,000

a chance to become more aware of the

21

00:00:54,630 --> 00:00:52,879

many achievements of african americans

22

00:00:56,869 --> 00:00:54,640

and also to better understand the black

23

00:00:58,549 --> 00:00:56,879

experience here in this country

24

00:01:01,029 --> 00:00:58,559

over time

25

00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:01,039

it's not just about celebrating the

26

00:01:05,990 --> 00:01:03,440

achievements but it's also a time to

27

00:01:07,910 --> 00:01:06,000

reflect on how we can contribute to

28

00:01:10,149 --> 00:01:07,920

what's been done thus far

29

00:01:10,950 --> 00:01:10,159

and encourage others to become a part of

30

00:01:13,510 --> 00:01:10,960

it

31

00:01:15,749 --> 00:01:13,520

excellent so your contribution i guess

32

00:01:17,190 --> 00:01:15,759

would be uh being a flight controller

33

00:01:19,749 --> 00:01:17,200

here at the johnson space center can you

34

00:01:20,789 --> 00:01:19,759

tell me how the space business interest

35

00:01:22,870 --> 00:01:20,799

you

36

00:01:24,830 --> 00:01:22,880

so that was a

37

00:01:29,749 --> 00:01:24,840

bit of a long story for me

38

00:01:32,069 --> 00:01:29,759

i started with a love for airplanes i

39

00:01:35,749 --> 00:01:32,079

fell in love with airplanes when i was

40

00:01:37,910 --> 00:01:35,759

four on my second airplane ride and i

41

00:01:40,710 --> 00:01:37,920

thought this is the best thing i have to

42

00:01:42,310 --> 00:01:40,720

find a way to always be on an airplane

43

00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:42,320

growing up in ghana i wasn't aware of

44

00:01:46,950 --> 00:01:45,040

any women in aviation at the time and

45

00:01:48,550 --> 00:01:46,960

the only

46

00:01:50,469 --> 00:01:48,560

thing i could think of was to become a

47

00:01:52,069 --> 00:01:50,479

flight attendant so i set the goal at

48

00:01:54,630 --> 00:01:52,079

four i was going to be a flight

49

00:01:56,709 --> 00:01:54,640

attendant so this was my goal until i

50

00:01:58,630 --> 00:01:56,719

was about 10 when i was discussing this

51

00:02:00,950 --> 00:01:58,640

with one of my teachers

52

00:02:04,550 --> 00:02:00,960

and he asked well don't you want to fly

53

00:02:07,270 --> 00:02:04,560

the airplane i thought well could i

54

00:02:08,790 --> 00:02:07,280

and he said why not so then i thought

55

00:02:09,830 --> 00:02:08,800

well someday i'm going to fly an

56

00:02:11,670 --> 00:02:09,840

airplane

57

00:02:14,150 --> 00:02:11,680

so a few years later my sister and i

58

00:02:17,430 --> 00:02:14,160

moved here to the us and after high

59

00:02:20,869 --> 00:02:17,440

school i chose to go to college to

60

00:02:22,949 --> 00:02:20,879

pursue a degree in the stem field and

61

00:02:25,350 --> 00:02:22,959

also

62

00:02:26,229 --> 00:02:25,360

obtain my private pilot certificate

63

00:02:29,750 --> 00:02:26,239

so

64

00:02:32,070 --> 00:02:29,760

after i did this and graduated i

65

00:02:34,790 --> 00:02:32,080

came here to houston actually i interned

66

00:02:36,390 --> 00:02:34,800

at the hobby airport in operations

67

00:02:38,710 --> 00:02:36,400

and after that

68

00:02:41,030 --> 00:02:38,720

i moved on to ellenton field

69

00:02:43,509 --> 00:02:41,040

and during this time here in the us i

70

00:02:44,949 --> 00:02:43,519

was aware of the space program but it

71

00:02:47,350 --> 00:02:44,959

wasn't

72

00:02:50,390 --> 00:02:47,360

something real to me it was this

73

00:02:52,550 --> 00:02:50,400

intangible surreal amazing thing and

74

00:02:53,990 --> 00:02:52,560

then i end up working at ellenton field

75

00:02:56,869 --> 00:02:54,000

in airport ops

76

00:03:00,229 --> 00:02:56,879

and i'm practically in nasa's backyard

77

00:03:02,390 --> 00:03:00,239

there are astronauts flying in t-38s and

78

00:03:04,550 --> 00:03:02,400

the coolest aircraft that nasa owns are

79

00:03:06,710 --> 00:03:04,560

flying in and out of ellington and i

80

00:03:09,430 --> 00:03:06,720

thought man what is going on over there

81

00:03:12,070 --> 00:03:09,440

and could i ever be a part of it

82

00:03:13,670 --> 00:03:12,080

so adding on to this a friend of mine a

83

00:03:15,910 --> 00:03:13,680

really good friend of mine ended up

84

00:03:18,390 --> 00:03:15,920

starting to work here at johnson space

85

00:03:20,309 --> 00:03:18,400

center so i got to hear about all of her

86

00:03:21,350 --> 00:03:20,319

cool experiences here

87

00:03:23,589 --> 00:03:21,360

and

88

00:03:25,670 --> 00:03:23,599

i formulated the plan that i was

89

00:03:27,990 --> 00:03:25,680
eventually going to work in this

90

00:03:31,030 --> 00:03:28,000
environment i just had to find the right

91

00:03:32,710 --> 00:03:31,040
spot so i continued on in my career

92

00:03:34,789 --> 00:03:32,720
still keeping an eye out for something

93

00:03:35,750 --> 00:03:34,799
that might suit me

94

00:03:54,710 --> 00:03:35,760
i

95

00:03:55,750 --> 00:03:54,720
and

96

00:03:57,830 --> 00:03:55,760
then

97

00:04:00,149 --> 00:03:57,840
a few years ago the perfect opportunity

98

00:04:02,229 --> 00:04:00,159
came up and i ended up here as a

99

00:04:03,509 --> 00:04:02,239
biomedical flight controller quite the

100

00:04:04,869 --> 00:04:03,519
resume

101
00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:04,879
can you tell us a little bit about what

102
00:04:09,509 --> 00:04:07,200
you do at nasa right now

103
00:04:16,150 --> 00:04:12,149
as a biomedical flight controller i am

104
00:04:19,030 --> 00:04:16,160
part of a team whose primary function

105
00:04:21,670 --> 00:04:19,040
is to ensure astronaut health and safety

106
00:04:23,909 --> 00:04:21,680
by providing operational and engineering

107
00:04:25,990 --> 00:04:23,919
support here in the mcc

108
00:04:28,790 --> 00:04:26,000
so some of the equipment

109
00:04:29,909 --> 00:04:28,800
or hardware on station that we support

110
00:04:33,749 --> 00:04:29,919
are the

111
00:04:34,950 --> 00:04:33,759
exercise equipment so the treadmill t2

112
00:04:39,670 --> 00:04:34,960
and

113
00:04:42,550 --> 00:04:39,680

resistive device which

114

00:04:44,469 --> 00:04:42,560

functions the same way as or serves the

115

00:04:46,790 --> 00:04:44,479

same function as a weight machine here

116

00:04:49,189 --> 00:04:46,800

on the ground a red

117

00:04:52,150 --> 00:04:49,199

so in addition to the exercise equipment

118

00:04:54,629 --> 00:04:52,160

we also support air quality monitoring

119

00:04:56,390 --> 00:04:54,639

devices radiation monitoring devices and

120

00:04:59,270 --> 00:04:56,400

that's just to mention a few because the

121

00:05:01,029 --> 00:04:59,280

list could go on a lot of cool hardware

122

00:05:03,270 --> 00:05:01,039

um we talk about every day because the

123

00:05:05,110 --> 00:05:03,280

astronauts do exercise about two and a

124

00:05:07,430 --> 00:05:05,120

half hours per day

125

00:05:10,150 --> 00:05:07,440

so can you tell us about where you see

126
00:05:11,270 --> 00:05:10,160
the future of space flight what that

127
00:05:13,189 --> 00:05:11,280
means for

128
00:05:13,990 --> 00:05:13,199
kids for girls growing up

129
00:05:17,510 --> 00:05:14,000
and

130
00:05:18,469 --> 00:05:17,520
yes i think the immediate future

131
00:05:21,590 --> 00:05:18,479
holds

132
00:05:24,629 --> 00:05:21,600
the return for a human space flight from

133
00:05:27,270 --> 00:05:24,639
u.s soil which hopefully will reignite

134
00:05:29,189 --> 00:05:27,280
the interest in the space program and

135
00:05:30,629 --> 00:05:29,199
encourage the youth to

136
00:05:33,029 --> 00:05:30,639
pursue

137
00:05:35,029 --> 00:05:33,039
education in the stem field

138
00:05:36,070 --> 00:05:35,039

long term hopefully

139

00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:36,080

we will

140

00:05:41,830 --> 00:05:38,880

achieve a visit to mars

141

00:05:44,070 --> 00:05:41,840

and you know the platforms like iss is

142

00:05:45,830 --> 00:05:44,080

helping pave the way and it's going to

143

00:05:48,150 --> 00:05:45,840

take a lot of

144

00:05:50,830 --> 00:05:48,160

research and breakthroughs in

145

00:05:53,749 --> 00:05:50,840

just all areas of science technology

146

00:05:55,590 --> 00:05:53,759

engineering and the efforts of

147

00:05:58,230 --> 00:05:55,600

people with different backgrounds

148

00:06:01,590 --> 00:05:58,240

different experiences coming together to

149

00:06:03,350 --> 00:06:01,600

work as a unit to help us achieve this

150

00:06:05,749 --> 00:06:03,360

diversity is definitely one of the main

151

00:06:08,070 --> 00:06:05,759

objectives of nasa and it's to to

152

00:06:09,670 --> 00:06:08,080

achieve these uh goals we need a round

153

00:06:10,950 --> 00:06:09,680

perspective of thinking

154

00:06:13,029 --> 00:06:10,960

sheila i'd like to thank you for being

155

00:06:14,790 --> 00:06:13,039

with us today this is sheila yoamape

156

00:06:15,990 --> 00:06:14,800

biomedical engineer and flight

157

00:06:17,590 --> 00:06:16,000

controller here at the nasa johnson