



# Astronaut

at a Glance

1  
00:00:12,150 --> 00:00:10,070  
it's almost disappointing when you hear

2  
00:00:13,350 --> 00:00:12,160  
people say well why do we do this it's

3  
00:00:14,950 --> 00:00:13,360  
like

4  
00:00:16,550 --> 00:00:14,960  
why wouldn't we do it high school i went

5  
00:00:18,710 --> 00:00:16,560  
to a wego free academy

6  
00:00:20,470 --> 00:00:18,720  
in upstate new york

7  
00:00:22,550 --> 00:00:20,480  
and then college was tulane university

8  
00:00:24,550 --> 00:00:22,560  
in new orleans when i was 17 when i left

9  
00:00:26,070 --> 00:00:24,560  
home about 1200 miles away to go to

10  
00:00:27,910 --> 00:00:26,080  
tulane they had a really good

11  
00:00:29,589 --> 00:00:27,920  
engineering school

12  
00:00:31,109 --> 00:00:29,599  
which was part of the decision and then

13  
00:00:34,069 --> 00:00:31,119

the other part was

14

00:00:36,150 --> 00:00:34,079

i i received a naval rotc scholarship

15

00:00:37,670 --> 00:00:36,160

and i think you know to be in

16

00:00:39,110 --> 00:00:37,680

engineering in college even as an

17

00:00:41,430 --> 00:00:39,120

undergraduate i think most people who

18

00:00:43,350 --> 00:00:41,440

went through it realized that you have

19

00:00:46,069 --> 00:00:43,360

to enjoy it because it's a lot of work

20

00:00:47,510 --> 00:00:46,079

it also kind of opened up those doors

21

00:00:49,029 --> 00:00:47,520

follow on you know it allowed me to go

22

00:00:51,029 --> 00:00:49,039

to test pilot school

23

00:00:53,750 --> 00:00:51,039

allowed me to meet the requirements to

24

00:00:55,830 --> 00:00:53,760

apply to be an astronaut i played every

25

00:00:57,750 --> 00:00:55,840

sport possible

26

00:00:59,750 --> 00:00:57,760

i was a team captain on a number of

27

00:01:01,910 --> 00:00:59,760

sports teams i just enjoyed being part

28

00:01:03,029 --> 00:01:01,920

of a team having a goal

29

00:01:04,710 --> 00:01:03,039

uh even

30

00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:04,720

shuttle crew or an iss crew you're

31

00:01:07,350 --> 00:01:05,760

talking

32

00:01:10,149 --> 00:01:07,360

six to seven people

33

00:01:11,990 --> 00:01:10,159

very much like a sports team in a sense

34

00:01:14,390 --> 00:01:12,000

obviously a little smaller a little more

35

00:01:15,749 --> 00:01:14,400

intimate and you you build a huge bond

36

00:01:17,910 --> 00:01:15,759

with those people just like you would

37

00:01:19,109 --> 00:01:17,920

with a sports team and i i think you

38

00:01:21,030 --> 00:01:19,119

know you have a leader you have a

39  
00:01:22,789 --> 00:01:21,040  
captain the commander you know you have

40  
00:01:24,789 --> 00:01:22,799  
this huge goal that you're trying to

41  
00:01:26,630 --> 00:01:24,799  
accomplish and you know you do

42  
00:01:28,230 --> 00:01:26,640  
everything you can to make sure you're

43  
00:01:30,550 --> 00:01:28,240  
part of that mission is a success

44  
00:01:31,590 --> 00:01:30,560  
because you want the team to succeed and

45  
00:01:32,789 --> 00:01:31,600  
you know within the department of the

46  
00:01:35,109 --> 00:01:32,799  
navy you have the navy in the marine

47  
00:01:36,630 --> 00:01:35,119  
corps so i chose to go what they called

48  
00:01:38,310 --> 00:01:36,640  
marine option

49  
00:01:41,030 --> 00:01:38,320  
and i wanted to be a pilot for me it was

50  
00:01:43,270 --> 00:01:41,040  
more i was very interested in space

51  
00:01:45,109 --> 00:01:43,280  
and really interested in airplanes and

52  
00:01:46,310 --> 00:01:45,119  
and i just kind of followed that passion

53  
00:01:47,749 --> 00:01:46,320  
i couldn't think of anything that i

54  
00:01:50,550 --> 00:01:47,759  
would have rather done i mean it was

55  
00:01:52,950 --> 00:01:50,560  
just i really really enjoyed being being

56  
00:01:54,789 --> 00:01:52,960  
a fighter pilot and being a marine i

57  
00:01:56,550 --> 00:01:54,799  
love to be outdoors

58  
00:01:58,069 --> 00:01:56,560  
you know my father and i would go on a

59  
00:02:00,149 --> 00:01:58,079  
trip every year

60  
00:02:01,510 --> 00:02:00,159  
some typically somewhere remote you know

61  
00:02:03,990 --> 00:02:01,520  
a lot of hiking you know in the

62  
00:02:05,350 --> 00:02:04,000  
mountains anytime you're you're hiking

63  
00:02:06,469 --> 00:02:05,360

you just want to see what's over that

64

00:02:09,589 --> 00:02:06,479

next hill

65

00:02:11,910 --> 00:02:09,599

i think uh you know we have a history as

66

00:02:13,990 --> 00:02:11,920

humans of being explorers and then just

67

00:02:16,150 --> 00:02:14,000

the excitement i mean i think it's just

68

00:02:18,630 --> 00:02:16,160

it's almost instinctive in a human being

69

00:02:21,510 --> 00:02:18,640

to want to explore you know i remember

70

00:02:24,229 --> 00:02:21,520

my first space flight on endeavor

71

00:02:25,910 --> 00:02:24,239

but with 135 it was a little bit

72

00:02:27,830 --> 00:02:25,920

different it was a

73

00:02:30,550 --> 00:02:27,840

one of the highlights of my professional

74

00:02:32,550 --> 00:02:30,560

career being part of that mission um

75

00:02:33,830 --> 00:02:32,560

you know you know unique in in a way you

76  
00:02:34,790 --> 00:02:33,840  
know there was only four of us on the

77  
00:02:37,190 --> 00:02:34,800  
crew

78  
00:02:39,670 --> 00:02:37,200  
it was the last flight of the program

79  
00:02:40,710 --> 00:02:39,680  
and then and then just the opportunity

80  
00:02:43,030 --> 00:02:40,720  
to just

81  
00:02:45,270 --> 00:02:43,040  
thank the people that had been involved

82  
00:02:47,430 --> 00:02:45,280  
in many cases since the beginning of the

83  
00:02:49,350 --> 00:02:47,440  
shuttle program in a way it was very

84  
00:02:51,750 --> 00:02:49,360  
bittersweet because

85  
00:02:53,270 --> 00:02:51,760  
you know it was the majority

86  
00:02:56,229 --> 00:02:53,280  
of

87  
00:02:58,229 --> 00:02:56,239  
american human space flight was on the

88  
00:03:01,030 --> 00:02:58,239

space shuttle and

89

00:03:03,110 --> 00:03:01,040

it does it changes you in a way that's a

90

00:03:05,350 --> 00:03:03,120

little bit hard to describe a little bit

91

00:03:06,149 --> 00:03:05,360

of intrinsic change it's a little bit of

92

00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:06,159

a

93

00:03:23,270 --> 00:03:22,400

which is this teeny little blue dot

94

00:03:27,910 --> 00:03:23,280

i don't

95

00:03:30,309 --> 00:03:27,920

change how you feel about yourself about

96

00:03:33,430 --> 00:03:30,319

life about the universe we've gone the

97

00:03:36,149 --> 00:03:33,440

better part of five years plus without a

98

00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:36,159

domestic capability is tough it's tough

99

00:03:41,110 --> 00:03:39,120

on us and it's great that we have the

100

00:03:43,830 --> 00:03:41,120

opportunity to fly with the russians and

101  
00:03:45,910 --> 00:03:43,840  
they fly you know a very good vehicle in

102  
00:03:47,589 --> 00:03:45,920  
the soyuz

103  
00:03:50,309 --> 00:03:47,599  
and so we've been able to maintain our

104  
00:03:52,309 --> 00:03:50,319  
presence in space but to be part of this

105  
00:03:54,229 --> 00:03:52,319  
where we're returning this capability to

106  
00:03:57,270 --> 00:03:54,239  
the united states flying rockets out of

107  
00:03:59,990 --> 00:03:57,280  
florida with people on them is

108  
00:04:01,429 --> 00:04:00,000  
is very exciting and i think it frankly

109  
00:04:03,030 --> 00:04:01,439  
the united states should have this