



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:18,617
Music

2
00:00:18,695 --> 00:00:24,432
All the orbiters are fantastic, but Endeavour has special meaning to me as a schoolteacher,

3
00:00:24,467 --> 00:00:29,772
because Endeavour was our replacement orbiter for Challenger, and it was named by schoolchildren all

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00:00:29,807 --> 00:00:35,181
over this country. And it was one of my favorite NASA education programs.

5
00:00:35,216 --> 00:00:41,702
So the children did a lot of research and learned about earlier ships of exploration and discovery,

6
00:00:41,737 --> 00:00:46,507
which our shuttles are named after. They chose Captain Cook and they learned all about it,

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00:00:46,542 --> 00:00:52,104
but what I loved even more than that was, not only were they learning about prior exploration and

8
00:00:52,139 --> 00:00:57,474
discovery, but kids all over the country with their teachers came up with their own wonderful,

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00:00:57,509 --> 00:01:03,669
very hands-on, very rich activities that helped them do some exploration and discovery on their own,

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00:01:03,704 --> 00:01:11,866
and really got them connected to our current-day space program as well.

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00:01:11,901 --> 00:01:14,774
Our International Space Station crew was so excited to show us their home.

12
00:01:14,809 --> 00:01:20,342
And at one point, we were in an area, and it was the first time I had a chance to look out one of the

13
00:01:20,377 --> 00:01:26,197

station windows. And that view was incredible. It was from that vantage point from the back of the

14

00:01:26,232 --> 00:01:31,418

station looking forward, and you could see Soyuz, and then you could see our shuttle.

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00:01:31,453 --> 00:01:36,688

And it almost looked like the Soyuz was superimposed on the shuttle. And it was magical,

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00:01:36,723 --> 00:01:42,683

the blackness of the sky was this amazing black. Something I'd never seen on Earth.

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00:01:42,718 --> 00:01:48,033

And so I said something to Fyodor, like, 'I've really got to get to work. But if you'll help me,

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00:01:48,068 --> 00:01:52,776

if you don't mind I'd love to come back and take this shot at some point.'

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00:01:52,811 --> 00:01:56,222

I never did have time to get back and take that picture. And after we had landed,

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00:01:58,586 --> 00:02:03,815

it was a couple days later, and I was checking my e-mail, there was an e-mail from Fyodor and he took

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00:02:04,392 --> 00:02:09,631

that picture for me and e-mailed it to me back at Houston. That to me, it was a wonderful,

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00:02:10,059 --> 00:02:15,924

warm story, but it also shows what our crews are like, and what truly a home and a family this whole

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00:02:15,959 --> 00:02:22,008

space exploration is.

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00:02:22,045 --> 00:02:27,695

So one of the questions for long duration is, how do you feed people? How do you sustain human life on

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00:02:27,730 --> 00:02:34,316

other planets, and other places? And so we put out a challenge to our kindergarten through 12th grade

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00:02:34,677 --> 00:02:40,956

students to think about that, and then design and build, out of scrap materials or whatever,

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00:02:41,418 --> 00:02:45,938

a growth chamber for either the moon, or Mars, or even their own backyard. Meanwhile,

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00:02:46,449 --> 00:02:53,613

we took up 10 million basil seeds with us, and then they spent some time with us up in space,

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00:02:53,648 --> 00:02:59,846

we left a sample, one example of a plant growth chamber on station, and with the station crew,

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00:02:59,955 --> 00:03:05,285

with some of those basil seeds. And they grew, and filmed that, so the kids could compare.

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00:03:05,353 --> 00:03:10,547

And they've been distributed all over the country to classrooms.

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00:03:15,092 --> 00:03:21,523

I consider myself very, very lucky to have gotten to train as Christa McAuliffe's backup.

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00:03:21,558 --> 00:03:29,831

She was, is and always will be our first teacher in space. And she did a fantastic job representing the best

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00:03:29,866 --> 00:03:37,234

of our profession. I was lucky to get to help carry that on. And what I am most proud of for all of us is,

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00:03:37,269 --> 00:03:45,721

what Christa started has continued on. We now have three more teachers in the astronaut office.