

NASA Remembers **Neil Armstrong**



1930 - 2012

1
00:00:25,920 --> 00:00:23,310
I can recall quite vividly when the nine

2
00:00:28,740 --> 00:00:25,930
of us met for the first time we were

3
00:00:31,830 --> 00:00:28,750
told to go down to sign in under the

4
00:00:34,290 --> 00:00:31,840
name of max Peck and it turned out that

5
00:00:37,260 --> 00:00:34,300
all night of us signed in under the name

6
00:00:41,070 --> 00:00:37,270
of Max Peck then there was this young

7
00:00:42,600 --> 00:00:41,080
fellow that I said you know we

8
00:00:44,760 --> 00:00:42,610
introduced each other and he was a

9
00:00:47,220 --> 00:00:44,770
fellow buddy man Neil Armstrong and I

10
00:00:49,260 --> 00:00:47,230
said well I were you in the are you in

11
00:00:53,640 --> 00:00:49,270
the Navy or the Air Force he says no I I

12
00:00:54,480 --> 00:00:53,650
work for NASA I thought oh boy we got a

13
00:00:56,400 --> 00:00:54,490

ringer here

14

00:00:58,860 --> 00:00:56,410

it's going to be a tough battle to get a

15

00:01:00,600 --> 00:00:58,870

flight off with Neil aboard but he

16

00:01:04,049 --> 00:01:00,610

turned out to be a team player a real

17

00:01:05,910 --> 00:01:04,059

great guy and as we know from you know

18

00:01:08,130 --> 00:01:05,920

the history of what went on after that

19

00:01:10,410 --> 00:01:08,140

after people had looked up for tens of

20

00:01:12,450 --> 00:01:10,420

thousands of years and wondered what was

21

00:01:14,219 --> 00:01:12,460

up there Neil was the first person to

22

00:01:17,400 --> 00:01:14,229

ever make a footprint on some place

23

00:01:19,560 --> 00:01:17,410

other than Earth I told Neil once that

24

00:01:21,240 --> 00:01:19,570

I'm not a very jealous person but for

25

00:01:23,520 --> 00:01:21,250

him I'll make an exception on that one

26

00:01:26,899 --> 00:01:23,530

that first step on the moon was really

27

00:01:29,730 --> 00:01:26,909

something he always had car troubles and

28

00:01:34,020 --> 00:01:29,740

he drove out one time and had one of his

29

00:01:36,030 --> 00:01:34,030

cars and had quit working out at work so

30

00:01:38,039 --> 00:01:36,040

we got barred a tow rope from the

31

00:01:41,250 --> 00:01:38,049

maintenance people and I hooked it up to

32

00:01:43,289 --> 00:01:41,260

my station wagon and up to his car and I

33

00:01:46,530 --> 00:01:43,299

told him into Lancaster at about 70

34

00:01:49,980 --> 00:01:46,540

miles an hour I could see him shaking

35

00:01:51,960 --> 00:01:49,990

his fist at me know when to Politan we

36

00:01:54,120 --> 00:01:51,970

went to the moon to I I like to tell

37

00:01:57,420 --> 00:01:54,130

Neal and always did remind him that

38

00:01:59,219 --> 00:01:57,430

Apollo 10 we painted the white line in

39

00:02:00,840 --> 00:01:59,229

the sky so we wouldn't get lost so all

40

00:02:03,090 --> 00:02:00,850

he'd have to do is worry about that

41

00:02:04,469 --> 00:02:03,100

little thing about landed I got to see

42

00:02:07,350 --> 00:02:04,479

him at the Congressional Gold medal

43

00:02:09,300 --> 00:02:07,360

ceremony back in November we got him to

44

00:02:11,850 --> 00:02:09,310

a restaurant and he spent time with

45

00:02:14,640 --> 00:02:11,860

general Stafford Gene Cernan the Collins

46

00:02:15,930 --> 00:02:14,650

and they got the laugh and joke I mean I

47

00:02:17,400 --> 00:02:15,940

was sitting out in the car waiting for

48

00:02:19,289 --> 00:02:17,410

him so I could get him back to the hotel

49

00:02:21,509 --> 00:02:19,299

and I had to finally go in there because

50

00:02:23,039 --> 00:02:21,519

I saw the the rest were closing down and

51
00:02:24,330 --> 00:02:23,049
they were all in there just laughing and

52
00:02:25,860 --> 00:02:24,340
getting I had to go in and put my hands

53
00:02:28,500 --> 00:02:25,870
on my hips and say okay fellas it's time

54
00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:28,510
to go you know and Neil came out he's

55
00:02:30,610 --> 00:02:30,010
how we're gonna dance on the street and

56
00:02:34,030 --> 00:02:30,620
I said no we're not

57
00:02:35,470 --> 00:02:34,040
dances preach one I gotta gonna be no he

58
00:02:39,520 --> 00:02:35,480
always came away from a conversation

59
00:02:42,250 --> 00:02:39,530
with Neal thinking that he wants you to

60
00:02:45,550 --> 00:02:42,260
be the important person not himself in

61
00:02:47,350 --> 00:02:45,560
this in this encounter and so yeah it

62
00:02:55,930 --> 00:02:47,360
was a delight to talk to everybody like

63
00:02:59,369 --> 00:02:55,940

Neal he was quiet he was a man of many

64

00:02:59,379 --> 00:06:07,170

he was also a good friend

65

00:06:16,230 --> 00:06:12,590

I always think of yellow as a friend and

66

00:06:19,980 --> 00:06:16,240

it's just too bad he's gone but looked

67

00:06:21,750 --> 00:06:19,990

himself as being a a as being sort of

68

00:06:24,210 --> 00:06:21,760

out on the tip of the spear if you will

69

00:06:26,520 --> 00:06:24,220

and there were just a lot of thousands

70

00:06:30,390 --> 00:06:26,530

of people there were designers and

71

00:06:32,850 --> 00:06:30,400

engineers and and people who made made

72

00:06:35,670 --> 00:06:32,860

it possible for him to be out there

73

00:06:37,590 --> 00:06:35,680

doing what what he did and no one can

74

00:06:41,520 --> 00:06:37,600

take away anything from that but he saw

75

00:06:45,830 --> 00:06:41,530

himself as the results of the work of a

76
00:06:50,070 --> 00:06:45,840
great team of people Neal was sincere he

77
00:06:53,820 --> 00:06:50,080
always always felt and said that you

78
00:06:56,130 --> 00:06:53,830
know it's not about me it's about those

79
00:06:59,460 --> 00:06:56,140
other five hundred thousand people who

80
00:07:02,490 --> 00:06:59,470
made it possible for me to do what we

81
00:07:04,980 --> 00:07:02,500
did what he did you know he always

82
00:07:08,600 --> 00:07:04,990
considered himself the tip of the arrow

83
00:07:14,470 --> 00:07:08,610
on the strengthen the bow was he an

84
00:07:19,870 --> 00:07:18,250
I often use Neil as a guide when things

85
00:07:21,400 --> 00:07:19,880
are getting a little bit crazy and I

86
00:07:22,510 --> 00:07:21,410
think okay we got to stick to the

87
00:07:24,690 --> 00:07:22,520
science we got to stick to the

88
00:07:27,220 --> 00:07:24,700

engineering that's the most important

89

00:07:29,200 --> 00:07:27,230

and try and avoid the hype and Neil was

90

00:07:30,730 --> 00:07:29,210

very good at avoiding the hype you know

91

00:07:32,860 --> 00:07:30,740

he was very much the straight shooter

92

00:07:34,270 --> 00:07:32,870

you know let's get the job done and he

93

00:07:36,940 --> 00:07:34,280

carried that into his professional life

94

00:07:40,650 --> 00:07:36,950

and as far as you know we could see from

95

00:07:43,960 --> 00:07:40,660

the outside his personal life it never

96

00:07:47,100 --> 00:07:43,970

was about him he I don't think I was

97

00:07:51,040 --> 00:07:47,110

even in his vocabulary it was about the

98

00:07:53,800 --> 00:07:51,050

team the mission the job that it had to

99

00:07:57,400 --> 00:07:53,810

be done and don't focus a attention on

100

00:08:00,400 --> 00:07:57,410

me focus it on on the product and in and

101
00:08:03,280 --> 00:08:00,410
the end accomplishments that you want to

102
00:08:06,070 --> 00:08:03,290
get out of this activity and it's sort

103
00:08:07,570 --> 00:08:06,080
of the old as long as everybody pulls on

104
00:08:09,970 --> 00:08:07,580
the rope in the same direction you know

105
00:08:13,420 --> 00:08:09,980
you can move mountains he was that kind

106
00:08:17,620 --> 00:08:13,430
of guy look at the Apollo 11 mission

107
00:08:20,590 --> 00:08:17,630
patch he was commander that mission and

108
00:08:23,550 --> 00:08:20,600
as as it went back then the astronauts

109
00:08:26,670 --> 00:08:23,560
designed their mission emblem and and

110
00:08:29,170 --> 00:08:26,680
there was one for every mission that

111
00:08:30,030 --> 00:08:29,180
particular mission patch look at it

112
00:08:34,240 --> 00:08:30,040
closely

113
00:08:36,430 --> 00:08:34,250

there's no astronaut names on it why is

114

00:08:38,230 --> 00:08:36,440

there no astronaut names on it well the

115

00:08:40,540 --> 00:08:38,240

word at the time was because the

116

00:08:43,030 --> 00:08:40,550

commander of the mission who has 51% of

117

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:43,040

the vote what goes on the patch didn't

118

00:08:49,930 --> 00:08:46,010

want the astronauts to get credit for

119

00:08:52,060 --> 00:08:49,940

our country being the first to land on

120

00:08:55,380 --> 00:08:52,070

the moon he wanted our nation to get

121

00:08:58,200 --> 00:08:55,390

credit for it so no names on the patch

122

00:09:00,700 --> 00:08:58,210

there's an eagle there of course

123

00:09:04,810 --> 00:09:00,710

representing the strength of our country

124

00:09:07,630 --> 00:09:04,820

but the eagle is not carrying arrows in

125

00:09:10,150 --> 00:09:07,640

a form of arrogance or military it's

126

00:09:14,590 --> 00:09:10,160

carrying an olive branch for peace and

127

00:09:20,770 --> 00:09:14,600

and to me that that kind of represents

128

00:09:25,750 --> 00:09:20,780

the personality of Neil in life it it

129

00:09:29,200 --> 00:09:25,760

seems like when we lose something God

130

00:09:31,150 --> 00:09:29,210

has a way of replacing it with something

131

00:09:34,240 --> 00:09:31,160

in and while there is no comparison

132

00:09:37,950 --> 00:09:34,250

whatsoever between curiosity and Neil

133

00:09:41,110 --> 00:09:37,960

Armstrong it is a second wave of

134

00:09:44,740 --> 00:09:41,120

explorers beyond low-earth orbit and so

135

00:09:47,410 --> 00:09:44,750

it did worry me that you know here's

136

00:09:49,930 --> 00:09:47,420

this this new Explorer and I sure hope I

137

00:09:56,470 --> 00:09:49,940

hope it's not replacing you know the

138

00:10:02,040 --> 00:09:56,480

icon so he just wanted to know that

139

00:10:05,170 --> 00:10:02,050

other kids could it could be inspired

140

00:10:07,840 --> 00:10:05,180

not just only by his accomplishments but

141

00:10:09,820 --> 00:10:07,850

by the accomplishments of a country the

142

00:10:12,610 --> 00:10:09,830

impossible is possible all you got to do

143

00:10:14,500 --> 00:10:12,620

is go on and do it I'm Neil Armstrong I

144

00:10:17,440 --> 00:10:14,510

was the first human being on another

145

00:10:19,930 --> 00:10:17,450

planet this universe if I can do it

146

00:10:22,840 --> 00:10:19,940

why can't you do it now how's the 18

147

00:10:24,910 --> 00:10:22,850

year old a 16 year old a 25 year old

148

00:10:27,490 --> 00:10:24,920

going to argue with Neil Armstrong he

149

00:10:30,490 --> 00:10:27,500

wanted to inspire these young people to

150

00:10:33,880 --> 00:10:30,500

dream and his desire was to spire these

151

00:10:35,950 --> 00:10:33,890

dreamers to dream on to take us back

152

00:10:38,890 --> 00:10:35,960

again when no man has been before I

153

00:10:42,220 --> 00:10:38,900

think if it Neil would certainly find

154

00:10:45,520 --> 00:10:42,230

peace within himself to know and I think

155

00:10:48,250 --> 00:10:45,530

he did to know that he is deed inspire

156

00:10:50,110 --> 00:10:48,260

this generation I could see it in her

157

00:10:52,390 --> 00:10:50,120

eyes I could see it in their hearts by

158

00:10:56,190 --> 00:10:52,400

standing in front of these kids and

159

00:10:58,780 --> 00:10:56,200

saying hi I'm Neil Armstrong bingo

160

00:11:03,580 --> 00:10:58,790

there's nothing they can't do well Neil

161

00:11:06,940 --> 00:11:03,590

Armstrong and the early astronauts were

162

00:11:08,830 --> 00:11:06,950

really the pioneers of exploration that

163

00:11:11,590 --> 00:11:08,840

for the first time all of us could see

164

00:11:14,110 --> 00:11:11,600

it as it was happening when I think of

165

00:11:15,880 --> 00:11:14,120

something like Lewis and Clark you you

166

00:11:18,610 --> 00:11:15,890

took weeks to hear about what happened

167

00:11:20,950 --> 00:11:18,620

with exploration but for this generation

168

00:11:24,160 --> 00:11:20,960

of explorers we could experience it and

169

00:11:25,210 --> 00:11:24,170

we could see ourselves doing things that

170

00:11:28,570 --> 00:11:25,220

no one had ever

171

00:11:32,470 --> 00:11:28,580

before and I was eight years old

172

00:11:35,350 --> 00:11:32,480

watching Neil and Buzz walk on that the

173

00:11:36,880 --> 00:11:35,360

moon the first time and it did seem to

174

00:11:38,950 --> 00:11:36,890

me at that point that I could do

175

00:11:41,050 --> 00:11:38,960

anything and I'm not sure if they hadn't

176

00:11:44,230 --> 00:11:41,060

done it I would have grown up thinking

177

00:11:48,160 --> 00:11:44,240

of I hope in some way that who he really

178

00:11:50,980 --> 00:11:48,170

was can be captured for people so that

179

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:50,990

future generations could profit from him

180

00:11:58,120 --> 00:11:55,010

because if we had a role model Neil was

181

00:12:00,580 --> 00:11:58,130

one of our best role models whether it

182

00:12:02,920 --> 00:12:00,590

was going into space or being an

183

00:12:05,770 --> 00:12:02,930

engineer or being a successful

184

00:12:10,480 --> 00:12:05,780

businessman or anything like that that

185

00:12:13,650 --> 00:12:10,490

his approach of being quiet not assuming

186

00:12:16,780 --> 00:12:13,660

but accomplishing things I think that is

187

00:12:20,080 --> 00:12:16,790

something of his legacy that young

188

00:12:22,420 --> 00:12:20,090

people would appreciate we all lost a

189

00:12:25,930 --> 00:12:22,430

piece of ourselves today all of us who

190

00:12:30,720 --> 00:12:25,940

consider ourselves explorers I've often

191

00:12:32,980 --> 00:12:30,730

wondered if during these passing years

192

00:12:38,800 --> 00:12:32,990

when Neil looked up at the beautiful

193

00:12:42,070 --> 00:12:38,810

moon he thought hmm been there done that

194

00:12:45,010 --> 00:12:42,080

and I believe God sent Neil here

195

00:12:47,260 --> 00:12:45,020

to do what he needed to do and once his

196

00:12:49,630 --> 00:12:47,270

assignment was up then God called him