



1
00:00:07,259 --> 00:00:17,660

My
name is Terry Edmonds.

2
00:00:17,660 --> 00:00:26,480

I'm a senior advisor and speechwriter for
Charlie Bolden and Lori Garver and I've

3
00:00:26,480 --> 00:00:29,949

been here at NASA for about a year and a half.

4
00:00:29,949 --> 00:00:35,960

At an early age I just fell in love with literature
and writing and poetry.

5
00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:42,019

We didn't have a lot of money but one thing
that my mother made sure we had was a series

6
00:00:42,019 --> 00:00:44,109

of classic books.

7
00:00:44,109 --> 00:00:49,520

Growing up I never imagined that the trajectory
of my life would take me to the places that

8
00:00:49,520 --> 00:00:56,069

I've been and becoming the first African-American
to write speeches for an American President

9
00:00:56,069 --> 00:00:57,549

is definitely a source of pride.

10
00:00:57,549 --> 00:01:00,850

"You have produced some of our nation's
finest leaders."

11
00:01:00,850 --> 00:01:07,380

He was the first President to deliver a commencement

address, I believe at an HBCU, Historically

12
00:01:07,380 --> 00:01:11,940
Black College and University, which happened
to be my Alma Mater, Morgan State University.

13
00:01:11,940 --> 00:01:16,280
Unbeknownst to me – I did not write it into
the speech – he pointed me out.

14
00:01:16,280 --> 00:01:23,510
“And on a very personal note, my fine assistant
Terry Edmonds, Class of 1972 ...the first

15
00:01:23,510 --> 00:01:29,450
African-American ever to serve as a speechwriter
for the President of the United States.”

16
00:01:29,450 --> 00:01:34,890
And that was quite a moment of pride and,
yeah, satisfaction.

17
00:01:34,890 --> 00:01:39,960
I would advise anyone who's trying to go
into speechwriting to write for somebody or

18
00:01:39,960 --> 00:01:45,060
for some cause or for some issue that you
actually believe in.

19
00:01:45,060 --> 00:01:50,670
I feel like I really, you know hit the jackpot
when I came to NASA.

20
00:01:50,670 --> 00:01:55,281
When the opportunity presented itself, everybody
kept telling me, 'hey man, that's a cool

21
00:01:55,281 --> 00:01:56,281
place.

22

00:01:56,281 --> 00:01:58,090

That's the coolest place to go.'

23

00:01:58,090 --> 00:02:02,650

It's a great place, great leadership, great camaraderie.

24

00:02:02,650 --> 00:02:05,980

It's very challenging work that we do here.

25

00:02:05,980 --> 00:02:12,260

I believe that we should have workplaces that, quote/unquote look like America.

26

00:02:12,260 --> 00:02:19,260

America is becoming more diverse and the talents of all of our people are going to be necessary