



1  
00:00:00,633 --> 00:00:02,869  
[music playing]

2  
00:00:08,975 --> 00:00:11,378  
I came to America when I was 16.

3  
00:00:11,378 --> 00:00:13,947  
I lived with my mom  
in Brooklyn, New York.

4  
00:00:13,947 --> 00:00:19,085  
After 9/11, I decided  
to serve this country

5  
00:00:19,085 --> 00:00:22,956  
and joined the United  
States Air Force.

6  
00:00:22,956 --> 00:00:24,357  
My name is Katherine Griffin.

7  
00:00:24,357 --> 00:00:27,660  
I am an accountant in the Office  
of the Chief Financial Officer

8  
00:00:27,660 --> 00:00:30,997  
here at Marshall  
Space Flight Center.

9  
00:00:30,997 --> 00:00:33,133  
I was born and raised  
in the Philippines.

10  
00:00:33,133 --> 00:00:35,135  
When I was five  
years old, my mom

11  
00:00:35,135 --> 00:00:38,872  
decided to come to America

to work as a registered nurse

12

00:00:38,872 --> 00:00:40,874

under a working visa.

13

00:00:40,874 --> 00:00:43,977

It was really tough  
growing up with my dad,

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00:00:43,977 --> 00:00:46,846

because I didn't  
really know my mom.

15

00:00:46,846 --> 00:00:51,217

I just remember taking  
her to the airport

16

00:00:51,217 --> 00:00:52,352

and saying bye to her.

17

00:00:52,352 --> 00:00:56,623

And we didn't even know  
if she was coming back.

18

00:00:56,623 --> 00:00:58,925

She would call us every month.

19

00:00:58,925 --> 00:01:02,328

And we'd get to talk  
to her for an hour.

20

00:01:02,328 --> 00:01:05,932

And she would come visit  
us once a year for a month.

21

00:01:05,932 --> 00:01:09,102

And that was it.

22

00:01:09,102 --> 00:01:13,940

And I wouldn't even be working here today if not for my mom.

23

00:01:13,940 --> 00:01:15,742

And being here is an American dream.

24

00:01:18,545 --> 00:01:21,481

It wasn't easy getting to where I am today.

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00:01:21,481 --> 00:01:23,516

I had a challenging life.

26

00:01:23,516 --> 00:01:24,918

I was a single parent.

27

00:01:24,918 --> 00:01:26,953

I was taking care of a one-year-old.

28

00:01:26,953 --> 00:01:31,491

I was in school full time and working full time.

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00:01:31,491 --> 00:01:36,129

But in 2 1/2 years, I managed to get my degree.

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00:01:36,129 --> 00:01:38,631

I graduated with a 4.0.

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00:01:38,631 --> 00:01:42,202

And about six weeks after, I got a job offer

32

00:01:42,202 --> 00:01:46,306

to work here at Marshall Space Flight Center as an auditor.

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00:01:46,306 --> 00:01:49,075

One thing that inspired  
me to work in this field

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00:01:49,075 --> 00:01:51,611

is I enjoy working with money.

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00:01:51,611 --> 00:01:54,848

So I decided to  
major in accounting.

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00:01:54,848 --> 00:01:56,516

The best thing about  
my job is I get

37

00:01:56,516 --> 00:01:59,419

to do what I enjoy the most.

38

00:01:59,419 --> 00:02:02,422

When I was younger, I used to  
be a cashier at a department

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00:02:02,422 --> 00:02:03,523

store.

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00:02:03,523 --> 00:02:06,893

And I enjoyed counting  
money and ensuring

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00:02:06,893 --> 00:02:10,029

that cash registers are  
balanced at the end of the day.

42

00:02:10,029 --> 00:02:12,198

I have fun at work.

43

00:02:12,198 --> 00:02:15,301

One of my favorite parts  
of working for NASA

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00:02:15,301 --> 00:02:18,404  
is to be a part of an  
organization that is dedicated

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00:02:18,404 --> 00:02:21,674  
to space exploration.

46

00:02:21,674 --> 00:02:24,878  
I really enjoy when  
NASA astronauts

47

00:02:24,878 --> 00:02:27,714  
get to visit the  
centers, where they

48

00:02:27,714 --> 00:02:31,885  
get to discuss or talk  
about their experiences

49

00:02:31,885 --> 00:02:34,187  
on Earth and in space.

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00:02:34,187 --> 00:02:39,626  
My advice for students watching  
today is to get your education.

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00:02:39,626 --> 00:02:41,361  
Education is very important.

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00:02:41,361 --> 00:02:44,797  
It opens more doors  
for opportunities.

53

00:02:44,797 --> 00:02:49,269  
I wouldn't be here today  
if not for my education.

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00:02:49,269 --> 00:02:50,770

There are struggles in life.

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00:02:50,770 --> 00:02:53,473

But I used those  
struggles to motivate

56

00:02:53,473 --> 00:02:55,808

me to be where I am today.