



1
00:00:00,667 --> 00:00:14,013



2
00:00:14,013 --> 00:00:18,017

As we celebrate African
American History Month,

3
00:00:18,017 --> 00:00:22,522

I think the achievements
of a people, of a culture

4
00:00:22,522 --> 00:00:25,492

is very important
to celebrate

5
00:00:25,492 --> 00:00:29,362

because not everybody
knows our history.

6
00:00:29,362 --> 00:00:33,566

And, I think, basically,
getting out the story of...

7
00:00:33,566 --> 00:00:36,236

of the achievements,
the perseverance

8
00:00:36,236 --> 00:00:38,204

that have gone
through the years

9
00:00:38,204 --> 00:00:40,974

is the most important
part this time of year.

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00:00:40,974 --> 00:00:44,944

You know, growing up
as a military brat,

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00:00:44,944 --> 00:00:46,780

my father had a lot
of friends who...

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00:00:46,780 --> 00:00:50,250

who were in NASA or the
Air Force at that time.

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00:00:50,250 --> 00:00:52,485

I could remember
a childhood,

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00:00:52,485 --> 00:00:53,653

not a childhood friend,

15

00:00:53,653 --> 00:00:55,822

but a friend
of the family,

16

00:00:55,822 --> 00:00:57,924

Ed Dwight,
who was the first

17

00:00:57,924 --> 00:01:00,627

African-American
astronaut candidate.

18

00:01:00,627 --> 00:01:03,496

I grew up knowing him,

19

00:01:03,496 --> 00:01:07,667

knowing Robert Lawrence,
and those guys

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00:01:07,667 --> 00:01:11,938

really influenced
my passion for space.

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00:01:11,938 --> 00:01:13,306

I grew up in Hawaii.

22

00:01:13,306 --> 00:01:16,176

I got to see the
Gemini capsules

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00:01:16,176 --> 00:01:18,511

come in as we were
standing at the dock.

24

00:01:18,511 --> 00:01:22,015

So, it... it was really engrained early on.

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00:01:22,015 --> 00:01:25,051

So, that really
influenced my thought

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00:01:25,051 --> 00:01:27,954

for working with NASA.

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00:01:27,954 --> 00:01:30,557

You know, I think when
we talk about heritage,

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00:01:30,557 --> 00:01:34,194

we look at race
too singularly.

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00:01:34,194 --> 00:01:38,198

I think it actually has a
lot to do with experience,

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00:01:38,198 --> 00:01:42,869

background, beliefs,
norms, opportunities

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00:01:42,869 --> 00:01:46,206

and I would say,
being a military brat,

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00:01:46,206 --> 00:01:49,375
that I've had great opportunities.

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00:01:49,375 --> 00:01:54,481
Heritage wise, I'm
African of course...

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00:01:54,481 --> 00:01:58,918
my great grandmother is
Caucasian from France...

35
00:01:58,918 --> 00:02:03,156
we have Indian blood,
so I think my heritage

36
00:02:03,156 --> 00:02:08,261
is a great mixture of what
America is and should be.

37
00:02:08,261 --> 00:02:11,331
Some of the family
things that go on,

38
00:02:11,331 --> 00:02:14,434
my dad and I still
laugh about it today,

39
00:02:14,434 --> 00:02:16,669
that my first day
on the test range

40
00:02:16,669 --> 00:02:20,840
after graduating, I was
actually shooting down

41
00:02:20,840 --> 00:02:22,742
one of his missiles
that he had built

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00:02:22,742 --> 00:02:24,777

during his career
and that was a...

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00:02:24,777 --> 00:02:26,346
a Talos on range.

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00:02:26,346 --> 00:02:28,681
So, that...
that's kind of funny

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00:02:28,681 --> 00:02:30,016
and we still
laugh about it.

46

00:02:30,016 --> 00:02:32,352
I tease him... how
slow his missile was,

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00:02:32,352 --> 00:02:36,022
and that we use them
for drones these days.

48

00:02:36,022 --> 00:02:38,525
My studies in school were
in mechanical engineering.

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00:02:38,525 --> 00:02:41,694
I have a degree in
Mechanical Engineering...

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00:02:41,694 --> 00:02:44,030
lots of math and science.

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00:02:44,030 --> 00:02:47,200
My minor is in
Bio-Medical Engineering.

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00:02:47,200 --> 00:02:49,702
I also have a...
a Masters in Theology,

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00:02:49,702 --> 00:02:52,972

and I'm working on
my PhD in Divinity.

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00:02:52,972 --> 00:02:56,809

So, between the math
and science and the faith,

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00:02:56,809 --> 00:02:58,311

I think it's
well prepared me

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00:02:58,311 --> 00:03:00,146

for a career within NASA.

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00:03:00,146 --> 00:03:04,651

What I've found, NASA is
so diverse that it really

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00:03:04,651 --> 00:03:07,654

doesn't make a difference
what your background is,

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00:03:07,654 --> 00:03:08,988

as long as you
apply yourself

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00:03:08,988 --> 00:03:11,824

you will do well
within the agency.

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00:03:11,824 --> 00:03:14,494

My advise to young
African Americans

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00:03:14,494 --> 00:03:17,497

wishing to work at
NASA is to take all

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00:03:17,497 --> 00:03:20,500

of the math and science
that you can in school,

64

00:03:20,500 --> 00:03:23,836

both high school
and in college.

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00:03:23,836 --> 00:03:29,275

Work hard, apply yourself
and I think things will...