

A photograph of an astronaut in a white space suit working on the exterior of a space station. The astronaut is positioned in the center-right of the frame, leaning over a white structure. The background is the dark void of space. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

35th Anniversary
1st American Woman
to Spacewalk

1
00:00:00,440 --> 00:00:02,480

I have this little guy!

2
00:00:02,480 --> 00:00:05,160

This is Kathy Sullivan (and Murphy)

3
00:00:06,560 --> 00:00:14,400

35 years ago, Kathy became the 1st American woman to walk in space.

4
00:00:14,400 --> 00:00:17,840

We video chatted with Kathy to ask her about her experience.

5
00:00:17,840 --> 00:00:19,560

Hi, there.

6
00:00:19,560 --> 00:00:22,960

Our commander Bob Crippen actually ordered us to stop for a minute

7
00:00:22,980 --> 00:00:28,650

and you pivot away from the space shuttle and look around. And he said

8
00:00:28,650 --> 00:00:32,809

"taking the fact that you're 190 miles above the earth, you're doing

9
00:00:32,809 --> 00:00:37,500

17,500 miles an hour, you're pilot in command of your own spaceship- that's

10
00:00:37,500 --> 00:00:42,180

what a spacesuit is. It's a body shaped spaceship and you're actually really

11
00:00:42,180 --> 00:00:45,320

here." And It was a forever grateful that he did that.

12

00:00:45,320 --> 00:00:48,480

We asked about her thoughts on an all-female spacewalk.

13

00:00:48,480 --> 00:00:53,000

I'm mainly glad that there are now such a proportion of super highly qualified

14

00:00:53,010 --> 00:00:57,059

women that have proven themselves in the astronaut corps. These are people of

15

00:00:57,059 --> 00:01:00,600

superior talent and skills. They worked hard to develop them. They're super

16

00:01:00,600 --> 00:01:04,680

trained. They're ready for anything that might go wrong- as ready as any other

17

00:01:04,680 --> 00:01:08,790

human being can be. And I think it's it's to NASA's credit that over the

18

00:01:08,790 --> 00:01:15,300

decades since 1978, there has been an effort to infuse the talent pipeline so

19

00:01:15,300 --> 00:01:19,530

more and more qualified women and people of color come forward and you know