

NASA
Remembers
Katherine
Johnson
1918 - 2020



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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,800

NASA Remembers Katherine Johnson 1918 - 2020

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00:00:06,880 --> 00:00:12,080

Katherine Johnson worked as a human computer during the early days of space flight.

3

00:00:12,240 --> 00:00:22,720

My problem was to answer questions and I did that to the best of my ability at all times.

4

00:00:23,360 --> 00:00:28,000

She did trajectory analysis for Alan Shepard's May 1961 mission Freedom 7,

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:31,360

America's first human spaceflight.

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00:00:31,360 --> 00:00:35,840

I liked what I was doing. I liked work.

7

00:00:35,840 --> 00:00:42,720

I liked the stars and the stories we were telling.

8

00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:45,520

and it was a joy.

9

00:00:45,560 --> 00:00:51,040

When NASA began to use electronic computers for their calculations, astronaut John Glenn said that he'd trust

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00:00:51,040 --> 00:00:55,160

the computers only after Johnson personally checked the math.

11

00:00:55,160 --> 00:01:00,160

I think it was pretty well known that

Katherine Johnson was an unusual person

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00:01:00,160 --> 00:01:04,840

with an incredible gift. Her mathematical

skills were just phenomenal.

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00:01:04,860 --> 00:01:09,360

Katherine Johnson's story is an amazing story and it had an impact on my life.

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00:01:09,360 --> 00:01:13,920

Two things that just come to mind is her persistence and her determination.

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00:01:13,920 --> 00:01:17,040

The story of Katherine Johnson and other mathematicians that worked with her

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00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:22,500

definitely had a impact on my career. It's people like her and others that came

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00:01:22,500 --> 00:01:26,860

along with her that paved the way for people like me to become astronauts.

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00:01:26,860 --> 00:01:31,720

At age 97, Katherine Johnson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom,