



ASTRONAUT

VICTOR GLOVER



1
00:00:00,834 --> 00:00:05,205
[MUSIC]

2
00:00:09,642 --> 00:00:10,243
>> MY EARLIEST IDEA

3
00:00:10,310 --> 00:00:10,910
OF WHO I WANTED TO BE

4
00:00:10,977 --> 00:00:13,079
GROWING UP WAS MY FATHER.

5
00:00:13,146 --> 00:00:14,481
MY FATHER WAS A POLICE OFFICER

6
00:00:14,547 --> 00:00:15,281
AND SO I WANTED TO BE

7
00:00:15,348 --> 00:00:17,784
A POLICE OFFICER.

8
00:00:17,851 --> 00:00:19,285
AND THEN I SAW A SHUTTLE LAUNCH

9
00:00:19,352 --> 00:00:20,687
ON TELEVISION AND I THOUGHT,

10
00:00:20,754 --> 00:00:21,254
I REALLY WANNA

11
00:00:21,321 --> 00:00:23,423
DRIVE ONE OF THOSE.

12
00:00:23,490 --> 00:00:24,357
AND YES I SAID DRIVE,

13
00:00:24,424 --> 00:00:24,824

BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW

14

00:00:24,891 --> 00:00:26,659

ANY PILOTS OR ENGINEERS EVEN,

15

00:00:26,726 --> 00:00:28,795

FOR THAT MATTER.

16

00:00:28,862 --> 00:00:29,462

I AM A PUBLIC SERVANT

17

00:00:29,529 --> 00:00:31,030

AND I HAVE BEEN FOR 22 YEARS,

18

00:00:31,097 --> 00:00:33,366

SINCE JANUARY OF 1998.

19

00:00:33,433 --> 00:00:35,268

AND SO I ASKED MYSELF,

20

00:00:35,335 --> 00:00:36,669

HAVE I DONE ALL THAT I CAN FOR

21

00:00:36,736 --> 00:00:38,571

MY COUNTRY AND FOR MY FAMILY?

22

00:00:39,939 --> 00:00:41,441

I HAVE FANTASIZED ABOUT

23

00:00:41,508 --> 00:00:42,375

STEPPING ON THE MOON.

24

00:00:42,442 --> 00:00:43,042

IT'S MY DREAM.

25

00:00:43,109 --> 00:00:44,511

MY DREAM IS TO WORK ON

26
00:00:44,577 --> 00:00:46,112
THE SURFACE OF THE MOON.

27
00:00:46,179 --> 00:00:47,147
AND BEING ABLE TO LAUNCH

28
00:00:47,213 --> 00:00:49,849
HUMANS FROM AMERICAN SOIL

29
00:00:49,916 --> 00:00:51,551
IS A VERY BIG PART OF THAT.

30
00:00:53,953 --> 00:00:54,687
I WAS SITTING AT MY DESK

31
00:00:54,754 --> 00:00:55,688
IN THE RUSSELL SENATE

32
00:00:55,755 --> 00:00:56,556
OFFICE BUILDING.

33
00:00:56,623 --> 00:00:57,123
AND I GOT A PHONE CALL

34
00:00:57,190 --> 00:00:58,625
FROM A HOUSTON PHONE NUMBER,

35
00:00:58,691 --> 00:00:59,192
AND BY THE TIME I ANSWERED

36
00:00:59,259 --> 00:00:59,859
I HAD MISSED IT.

37
00:00:59,926 --> 00:01:00,527
[CHUCKLING]

38
00:01:00,593 --> 00:01:01,861

AND SO I CALLED BACK

39

00:01:01,928 --> 00:01:02,729

AND AFTER A LOT OF WAITING

40

00:01:02,796 --> 00:01:03,730

AND BEING TRANSFERRED,

41

00:01:03,797 --> 00:01:04,898

I WAS TRANSFERRED TO, UH,

42

00:01:04,964 --> 00:01:06,032

JANET KAVANDI, WHO WAS

43

00:01:06,099 --> 00:01:07,033

THE CHAIR OF OUR BOARD.

44

00:01:07,100 --> 00:01:07,667

AND SHE ASKED ME IF

45

00:01:07,734 --> 00:01:08,902

I WANTED TO COME TO HOUSTON

46

00:01:08,968 --> 00:01:09,903

AND COMMENCE TRAINING.

47

00:01:09,969 --> 00:01:10,904

AND I ACTUALLY PINCHED MYSELF

48

00:01:10,970 --> 00:01:11,805

SEVERAL TIMES WALKING

49

00:01:11,871 --> 00:01:12,972

BACK TO MY OFFICE.

50

00:01:13,039 --> 00:01:13,907

THERE IS NO WAY THAT

51
00:01:13,973 --> 00:01:14,808
THIS IS A REAL THING.

52
00:01:14,874 --> 00:01:15,375
I'M GONNA WAKE UP

53
00:01:15,442 --> 00:01:16,476
AND BE SO DISAPPOINTED.

54
00:01:16,543 --> 00:01:17,644
WHEN I WOKE UP THE NEXT DAY

55
00:01:17,710 --> 00:01:18,478
AND I ACTUALLY HAD AN EMAIL

56
00:01:18,545 --> 00:01:19,379
FROM JANET SAYING IT

57
00:01:19,446 --> 00:01:20,847
WAS NOT A DREAM, IT WAS--

58
00:01:20,914 --> 00:01:22,515
THAT WAS ACTUALLY UNREAL.

59
00:01:22,582 --> 00:01:23,383
[CHUCKLING]

60
00:01:23,450 --> 00:01:24,484
>> HE'S A LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

61
00:01:24,551 --> 00:01:25,985
IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

62
00:01:26,052 --> 00:01:27,687
WHERE HE FLEW F18s.

63
00:01:27,754 --> 00:01:28,521

HE CAME TO US FROM

64

00:01:28,588 --> 00:01:30,056

WASHINGTON D.C. WHERE HE

65

00:01:30,123 --> 00:01:31,357

WAS SERVING AS UNITED STATES

66

00:01:31,424 --> 00:01:33,259

NAVY LEGISLATIVE FELLOW

67

00:01:33,326 --> 00:01:35,562

IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

68

00:01:35,628 --> 00:01:36,729

VICTOR?

69

00:01:36,796 --> 00:01:38,665

[APPLAUSE]

70

00:01:38,731 --> 00:01:40,266

>> BEING SELECTED FOR THIS JOB,

71

00:01:40,333 --> 00:01:41,668

YOU-YOU CAN'T HELP BUT TO THINK

72

00:01:41,734 --> 00:01:42,669

OF I'VE GOT SO MANY FRIENDS

73

00:01:42,735 --> 00:01:43,369

THAT I KNOW COULD

74

00:01:43,436 --> 00:01:44,237

DO THIS JOB WELL.

75

00:01:44,304 --> 00:01:45,738

AND-AND THAT FEELING OF,

76

00:01:45,805 --> 00:01:46,673

WOW, WHY DIDN'T THEY GET IT,

77

00:01:46,739 --> 00:01:47,941

AND, YOU KNOW, FEELING LIKE

78

00:01:48,007 --> 00:01:48,908

YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOOD ENOUGH

79

00:01:48,975 --> 00:01:49,876

CUT OUT FOR THE JOB.

80

00:01:49,943 --> 00:01:51,244

AND I FELT ALL OF THOSE THINGS.

81

00:01:51,311 --> 00:01:52,846

BEING A FATHER, A HUSBAND,

82

00:01:52,912 --> 00:01:53,446

ALL OF THOSE THINGS

83

00:01:53,513 --> 00:01:54,581

COME WITH DOUBT.

84

00:01:54,647 --> 00:01:55,782

AND I THINK YOU HAVE TO

85

00:01:55,849 --> 00:01:56,716

LEARN TO GET COMFORTABLE

86

00:01:56,783 --> 00:01:58,251

WITH THE DOUBT.

87

00:01:59,752 --> 00:02:02,455

THEY CALL THINGS MOONSHOTS

88

00:02:02,522 --> 00:02:03,356

WHEN PEOPLE ACCOMPLISH

89

00:02:03,423 --> 00:02:04,958

SOMETHING AMAZING.

90

00:02:05,024 --> 00:02:05,625

NO MATTER HOW GOOD

91

00:02:05,692 --> 00:02:07,260

A STORY YOU TELL,

92

00:02:07,327 --> 00:02:08,595

PEOPLE ARE CAPTIVATED BY

93

00:02:08,661 --> 00:02:11,431

REAL WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT.

94

00:02:11,498 --> 00:02:12,232

IT'S OUR GENERATION'S

95

00:02:12,298 --> 00:02:13,132

OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE

96

00:02:13,199 --> 00:02:15,401

OUR OWN LITERAL MOONSHOT

97

00:02:15,468 --> 00:02:15,969

AND THEN TO CONTINUE

98

00:02:16,035 --> 00:02:17,737

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

99

00:02:17,804 --> 00:02:19,739

TO REACH FOR THE MOON.

100

00:02:19,806 --> 00:02:20,206

>> THEY NOT ONLY HAVE

101

00:02:20,273 --> 00:02:21,307

THE RIGHT STUFF,

102

00:02:21,374 --> 00:02:23,109

THEY REPRESENT THE FULL TAPESTRY

103

00:02:23,176 --> 00:02:24,811

OF AMERICAN DIVERSITY.

104

00:02:24,878 --> 00:02:26,412

THEIR JOURNEY BEGINS NOW

105

00:02:26,479 --> 00:02:27,614

AND THE NATION WILL BE

106

00:02:27,680 --> 00:02:28,882

RIGHT BESIDE THEM