



A MESSAGE FROM
NASA ADMINISTRATOR
SEN. BILL NELSON

1
00:00:05,188 --> 00:00:07,674
Hi everybody, I'm Bill Nelson.

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00:00:07,707 --> 00:00:10,677
I have the incredible privilege and honor

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00:00:11,578 --> 00:00:13,713
of having been sworn in

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00:00:13,746 --> 00:00:16,332
just recently by the Vice President to

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00:00:16,349 --> 00:00:18,685
be the next head of NASA.

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00:00:18,868 --> 00:00:21,004
The President had just an

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00:00:21,004 --> 00:00:23,923
incredible kind of confidence in me.

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00:00:24,073 --> 00:00:25,742
All those in favor say I.

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00:00:26,676 --> 00:00:29,262
And apparently my old friends

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00:00:33,166 --> 00:00:32,215
in the Senate seemed to convey that confidence again

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00:00:33,199 --> 00:00:37,620
in that they pass me unanimously in my confirmation.

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00:00:37,620 --> 00:00:41,491
And it is such a privilege for me to be a

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00:00:41,507 --> 00:00:45,878

part of this agency, because this is a can do agency.

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00:00:46,662 --> 00:00:48,915

And NASA is a family.

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00:00:50,066 --> 00:00:52,418

I've been privileged to be a part

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00:00:52,435 --> 00:00:56,205

of that on the outside for a number of years.

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00:00:56,222 --> 00:01:00,109

The 30 years that I served first in the House

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00:01:00,142 --> 00:01:03,713

and then in the Senate in the positions of being the

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00:01:03,713 --> 00:01:06,482

chairman of the Space Subcommittee,

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00:01:07,166 --> 00:01:10,603

and then again in the Senate likewise,

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00:01:10,603 --> 00:01:13,973

and as the ranking member of the full committee,

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00:01:13,973 --> 00:01:17,093

so it's returning home for me.

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00:01:17,226 --> 00:01:21,097

In a way, it's more of a return home.

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00:01:22,064 --> 00:01:24,867

We've stayed in touch with our crew that

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00:01:24,884 --> 00:01:29,038

flew on the 24th flight of the Space Shuttle,

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00:01:29,255 --> 00:01:32,725

Led by Hoot Gibson, the best of the best.

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00:01:33,442 --> 00:01:35,878

Piloted by Charlie Bolden, who

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00:01:35,895 --> 00:01:38,480

went on to command several missions.

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00:01:39,148 --> 00:01:40,466

And then of course,

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00:01:40,866 --> 00:01:45,170

I had the opportunity years later to

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00:01:45,187 --> 00:01:50,025

return that favor by insisting to President

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00:01:50,309 --> 00:01:52,945

Obama and Vice President Biden

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00:01:53,062 --> 00:01:57,549

that they nominate Charlie as the administrator.

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00:01:57,549 --> 00:02:00,219

And of course he served there for eight years.

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00:02:00,285 --> 00:02:03,889

NASA has unlimited possibilities.

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00:02:03,889 --> 00:02:08,093

As we venture out to explore the cosmos,

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00:02:08,327 --> 00:02:10,128

not only are we going

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00:02:10,379 --> 00:02:13,031

back to the Moon and then on to Mars,

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00:02:13,649 --> 00:02:16,251

but look at the scientific

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00:02:16,501 --> 00:02:18,704

achievement that we're going to do

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00:02:19,154 --> 00:02:21,106

and along the line inspire a

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00:02:21,123 --> 00:02:23,642

whole new generation of students

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00:02:24,092 --> 00:02:26,445

in science and technology

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00:02:26,478 --> 00:02:29,047

and engineering and mathematics.

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00:02:32,634 --> 00:02:35,303

The first A in NASA is Aeronautics.

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00:02:35,303 --> 00:02:38,290

Look at what we've already done, and

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00:02:38,290 --> 00:02:41,643

the excitement of the new kinds of development

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00:02:41,643 --> 00:02:44,579

of aircraft to make them more efficient,

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00:02:44,613 --> 00:02:48,049

less polluting, and get us there faster.

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00:02:49,351 --> 00:02:52,370

And of course you can't talk about NASA

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00:02:52,387 --> 00:02:55,090
without talking about its workforce,

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00:02:56,041 --> 00:03:00,779
and that's why NASA is such a great place to work.

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00:03:01,863 --> 00:03:06,901
And people are there because they consider NASA a family.

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00:03:08,837 --> 00:03:12,974
I want to point out in the swearing in that I had

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00:03:12,974 --> 00:03:17,162
They're not only my family, my wife, Grace and

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00:03:17,178 --> 00:03:19,030
our son, Bill Junior, and

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00:03:19,030 --> 00:03:21,099
our daughter Nan Ellen, but

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00:03:21,115 --> 00:03:25,720
I purposely had there also, Charlie Bolden

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00:03:26,221 --> 00:03:29,741
and Jim Breidenstein as the two

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00:03:29,774 --> 00:03:32,560
previous administrators, because what

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00:03:32,577 --> 00:03:36,264
we wanted to convey was the continuity

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00:03:36,281 --> 00:03:38,800
of administrations in NASA.

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00:03:39,133 --> 00:03:43,221

And also the bipartisanship and NASA

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00:03:43,371 --> 00:03:46,340

is a bipartisan agency.

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00:03:46,374 --> 00:03:50,244

As a matter of fact, it's really more nonpartisan

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00:03:51,112 --> 00:03:53,531

and that's the way it should be operated.

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00:03:53,564 --> 00:03:56,684

And that's the way that I certainly intend

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00:03:57,852 --> 00:04:00,538

to try to offer some leadership

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00:04:00,988 --> 00:04:02,857

in a bipartisan way.

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00:04:03,307 --> 00:04:04,325

And then I want to say

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00:04:04,325 --> 00:04:07,078

the other person that I had there was

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00:04:07,078 --> 00:04:13,167

Pam Melroy, Air Force Colonel, retired test pilot

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00:04:13,167 --> 00:04:16,537

and Astronaut Commander, 3 missions.

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00:04:16,887 --> 00:04:21,559

She then, after the astronaut office went to the FAA

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00:04:21,559 --> 00:04:24,545

and then to DARPA and Pam and

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00:04:24,545 --> 00:04:27,965

I are going to operate as a team.

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00:04:28,149 --> 00:04:30,818

And she is going to be a

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00:04:30,835 --> 00:04:35,139

fantastic leader for this agency, so

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00:04:35,372 --> 00:04:37,424

I want to thank you for

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00:04:37,942 --> 00:04:40,110

this opportunity to serve

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00:04:40,127 --> 00:04:41,979

in public service again.

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00:04:42,012 --> 00:04:45,299

It's been up to this point,

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00:04:45,299 --> 00:04:48,369

44 years of public service for me,

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00:04:48,369 --> 00:04:53,424

42 of which was an elected public office.

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00:04:54,425 --> 00:04:57,127

Thank you for this great opportunity.

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00:04:58,162 --> 00:05:02,433

And thank you for what you do every day.

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00:05:02,433 --> 00:05:09,056

You make this not only the agency that can do,

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00:05:09,623 --> 00:05:11,441

but does.

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00:05:12,125 --> 00:05:14,211

And that's why of all the

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00:05:14,228 --> 00:05:17,881

federal departments and agencies of government,

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00:05:18,799 --> 00:05:21,418

That's why NASA is the

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00:05:21,435 --> 00:05:24,655

most popular among the American people.

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00:05:25,255 --> 00:05:27,307

And that's because of you.

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00:05:27,841 --> 00:05:30,594

So thank you so very much.

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00:05:30,911 --> 00:05:32,813

For this new opportunity

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00:05:32,829 --> 00:05:35,332

of service that you and