



**NASA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PAM MELROY
HONORS SPACE SHUTTLE
CLOSEOUT CREW LEAD**

1
00:00:06,573 --> 00:00:08,541
So I'm thrilled to be here today

2
00:00:09,209 --> 00:00:11,945
to celebrate Travis Thompson

3
00:00:12,278 --> 00:00:14,414
and the fact that his suit

4
00:00:14,447 --> 00:00:16,649
as the lead of the closeout crew

5
00:00:16,850 --> 00:00:19,619
for the space shuttle is on display.

6
00:00:26,760 --> 00:00:27,727
The closeout crew

7
00:00:27,761 --> 00:00:30,196
has an awesome set of responsibilities.

8
00:00:30,363 --> 00:00:31,931
They assist the crew

9
00:00:32,198 --> 00:00:34,234
in getting inside the shuttle

10
00:00:34,234 --> 00:00:35,568
and getting strapped in.

11
00:00:35,969 --> 00:00:37,837
And that's complicated

12
00:00:37,837 --> 00:00:39,205
because the shuttle, of course,

13
00:00:39,406 --> 00:00:41,674

is in the vertical orientation.

14

00:00:43,977 --> 00:00:45,011

There's only seven

15

00:00:45,011 --> 00:00:46,746

people on the launch pad at time

16

00:00:46,780 --> 00:00:47,914

that aren't flying.

17

00:00:47,947 --> 00:00:49,582

We all have different duties.

18

00:00:49,716 --> 00:00:51,351

We get to know the astronauts,

19

00:00:51,351 --> 00:00:52,185

get to see them.

20

00:00:52,185 --> 00:00:53,019

And so, you know,

21

00:00:53,019 --> 00:00:54,421

I want to look them in the eye

22

00:00:54,421 --> 00:00:55,922

and make sure everything's going on

23

00:00:55,922 --> 00:00:57,157

good, because you are getting ready

24

00:00:57,157 --> 00:01:00,960

to leave the earth for three, two,

25

00:01:01,528 --> 00:01:03,329

one booster ignition

26

00:01:03,530 --> 00:01:05,198

and liftoff of Discovery.

27

00:01:05,432 --> 00:01:07,967

You're ready to close up a spaceship

28

00:01:08,268 --> 00:01:11,071

to go on a huge rocket ride

29

00:01:11,337 --> 00:01:12,972

and then operate in a vacuum.

30

00:01:13,239 --> 00:01:15,275

There's a deeply personal connection,

31

00:01:15,642 --> 00:01:16,643

as you realize you're

32

00:01:16,643 --> 00:01:18,311

preparing to leave the planet.

33

00:01:18,545 --> 00:01:20,680

They're the last people you see

34

00:01:20,980 --> 00:01:22,582

before that door is closed.

35

00:01:24,184 --> 00:01:27,420

This is the cap off of the crew

36

00:01:27,420 --> 00:01:29,122

module side hatch.

37

00:01:29,689 --> 00:01:31,091

This is what we would

38

00:01:31,157 --> 00:01:33,693

pressurize the cabin with and seals

39

00:01:33,693 --> 00:01:35,762

all the air inside the ship.

40

00:01:39,532 --> 00:01:41,468

The story of the closeout

41

00:01:41,468 --> 00:01:44,471

crew represents it's the pinnacle.

42

00:01:44,504 --> 00:01:46,840

I mean, it's the most challenging job

43

00:01:46,840 --> 00:01:48,007

you could aspire to.

44

00:01:48,241 --> 00:01:50,977

Travis exhibited the best characteristics

45

00:01:51,511 --> 00:01:53,880

of technical excellence,

46

00:01:53,880 --> 00:01:55,348

but also leadership.

47

00:01:55,615 --> 00:01:56,449

The closeout crew

48

00:01:56,449 --> 00:01:58,318

had to work well together,

49

00:01:58,585 --> 00:02:00,320

and you need a good leader to do that.

50

00:02:00,386 --> 00:02:02,755

He's very special, but he also represents

51

00:02:02,755 --> 00:02:04,224

all those special people

52

00:02:04,491 --> 00:02:06,493

at the Kennedy Space Center who helped

53

00:02:06,493 --> 00:02:07,894

prepare the shuttle for launch.

54

00:02:14,601 --> 00:02:17,403

I'm very proud that it's here on display.

55

00:02:17,437 --> 00:02:19,239

I want everybody to see it.

56

00:02:19,606 --> 00:02:20,840

I loved my team.

57

00:02:20,840 --> 00:02:21,541

I miss it.