

# CELEBRATING NASAs VETERANS



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00:00:00,125 --> 00:00:06,756

Hi, my name is Christina Martinez and I'm a U.S. Navy Veteran with 22 years of service.

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00:00:06,756 --> 00:00:11,845

I continue to serve as the Enterprise Cybersecurity Risk Manager at Johnson Space Center.

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00:00:11,845 --> 00:00:16,766

At NASA, we pay tribute to the men and women Veterans that continue to lead the way

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00:00:16,766 --> 00:00:18,518

into the future of space exploration!

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00:00:18,518 --> 00:00:24,649

This November, we shine the spotlight on just a few Veterans in honor of Veteran's Day.

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00:00:24,649 --> 00:00:29,446

Our journey back to the Moon and on to Mars starts at home, and NASA's Veterans are

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00:00:29,446 --> 00:00:32,532

a big part of accomplishing that mission.

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00:00:32,532 --> 00:00:36,244

Veterans currently make up 12% of the NASA work force!

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00:00:36,244 --> 00:00:42,250

Many of the most iconic figures at the agency—our astronauts—have a strong veteran tie.

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00:00:42,250 --> 00:00:48,006

In fact, all NASA astronauts were military pilots until 1965.

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00:00:48,006 --> 00:00:54,095

Of the 385 total NASA Astronauts, 223 are Veterans!

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00:00:54,095 --> 00:00:58,975  
Veterans continue to have a sweeping impact on NASA, in every corner of our workforce.

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00:00:58,975 --> 00:01:05,940  
NASA's own Deputy Administrator, Pam Melroy, is a Retired US Air Force Colonel and Astronaut.

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00:01:05,940 --> 00:01:13,364  
A veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm with 200 combat and combat support hours.

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00:01:13,364 --> 00:01:18,912  
She also logged 38 days in space in three missions to help build the International Space

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00:01:18,912 --> 00:01:20,413  
Station.

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00:01:20,413 --> 00:01:25,251  
NASA Astronaut, Dr. Jonny Kim, is a former U.S. Navy Seal.

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00:01:25,251 --> 00:01:30,381  
Lieutenant Commander Kim completed more than 100 combat operations and is the recipient

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00:01:30,381 --> 00:01:33,885  
of the Silver Star and Bronze Star with Combat "V".

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00:01:33,885 --> 00:01:39,140  
He was recently selected to join the Artemis Team, a special group of Astronauts leading

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00:01:39,140 --> 00:01:41,643  
the charge back to the moon and beyond.

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00:01:41,643 --> 00:01:47,982  
Now Chair of the NASA Advisory Council, Retired  
General Lester Lyles entered the U.S. Air

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00:01:47,982 --> 00:01:52,362  
Force in 1968 and served in many different  
assignments.

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00:01:52,362 --> 00:01:58,535  
From Avionics Division Chief in the F-16 Systems  
Program Office to eventually becoming Commander

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00:01:58,535 --> 00:02:01,287  
of the Air Force Materiel Command.

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00:02:01,287 --> 00:02:05,959  
Lieutenant General Larry James entered the  
Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the

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00:02:05,959 --> 00:02:08,878  
United States Air Force Academy in 1978.

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00:02:08,878 --> 00:02:14,717  
He commanded at the squadron, group and wing  
levels, and was Vice Commander of the Space

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00:02:14,717 --> 00:02:21,766  
and Missile Systems Center and served as the  
Senior Space Officer for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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00:02:21,766 --> 00:02:27,856  
He retired from the Air Force in 2013 to assume  
the role of deputy director of NASA's Jet

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00:02:27,856 --> 00:02:32,986  
Propulsion Laboratory and served as interim  
director of JPL.

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00:02:32,986 --> 00:02:38,783

Associate Administrator Bob Cabana is a former naval flight officer and naval aviator in

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00:02:38,783 --> 00:02:40,118

the U.S. Marine Corp.

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00:02:40,118 --> 00:02:45,915

During his career, Cabana has logged over 7,000 hours in 50 different kinds of aircraft.

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00:02:45,915 --> 00:02:49,335

Cabana was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1985.

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00:02:49,335 --> 00:02:55,550

A veteran of four spaceflights, Cabana has logged 38 days in space serving either at

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00:02:55,550 --> 00:02:57,844

the pilot or mission commander.

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00:02:57,844 --> 00:03:04,142

His fourth flight was the first assembly mission of the International Space Station in 1998.

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00:03:04,142 --> 00:03:10,523

And finally, our very own Administrator Nelson began his career as a Captain in the U.S.

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00:03:10,523 --> 00:03:11,524

Army.

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00:03:11,524 --> 00:03:15,612

After the Army, Administrator Nelson continued to serve in public office over four decades,

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00:03:15,612 --> 00:03:17,614

first in the state legislature and U.S. Congress, then as State Treasurer.

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00:03:17,614 --> 00:03:21,034

In 1986 he flew on the 24th flight of the Space Shuttle.

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00:03:21,034 --> 00:03:26,080

The mission on Columbia orbited the earth 98 times over six days.

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00:03:26,080 --> 00:03:32,962

Senator Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator in 2021, tasked with carrying

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00:03:32,962 --> 00:03:38,218

out the Biden-Harris administration's vision to prepare the next generation to return to

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00:03:38,218 --> 00:03:41,721

the Moon and on to Mars.