



NASA's African-American Astronauts



Charles F. Bolden, Jr., NASA Administrator: Born August 19, 1946, in Columbia, SC. Graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, SC, in 1964. Received a bachelor of science degree in electrical science from the United States Naval Academy in 1968 and a master of science in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1977. Selected by NASA in May 1980. Is a veteran of four space flights with over 680 hours in space. Served as pilot on STS-61C and STS-31 and commander on STS-45 and STS-60. Began his duties as the 12th NASA Administrator and first African-American Administrator in July 2009. As Administrator, he leads the Agency to achieve NASA's missions and goals.



Michael Anderson: Born December 25, 1959, in Plattsburgh, NY. Graduated from Cheney High School in Cheney, WA, in 1977. Received a bachelor of science degree in physics/astronomy from University of Washington in 1981 and a master of science degree in physics from Creighton University in 1990. Selected by NASA in December 1994. Flew on STS-89 and STS-107, logging over 593 hours in space. Died on February 1, 2003, when Space Shuttle Columbia and its crew perished during reentry.



Guion S. Bluford, Jr.: Born in Philadelphia, PA, on November 22, 1942. Received a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1964, a master of science degree with distinction in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1974, a doctor of philosophy in aerospace engineering with a minor in laser physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1978, and a master of business administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, in 1987. Became a NASA astronaut in August 1979. Is a veteran of four space flights and was a mission specialist on STS-8, STS-61A, STS-39, and STS-53.



Yvonne Darlene Cagle, M.D.: Born in West Point, NY. Received a bachelor of arts degree in biochemistry from San Francisco State University in 1981 and a doctorate in medicine from the University of Washington in 1985. Received certification in aerospace medicine from the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base, TX, in 1988. Completed residency in family practice at Ghent FP at Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1992. Received certification as a senior aviation medical examiner from the Federal Aviation Administration in 1995. Selected by NASA in April 1996; is qualified for flight assignment.



Robert L. Curbeam, Jr.: Born March 5, 1962, in Baltimore, MD. Graduated from Woodlawn High School, Baltimore County, MD, 1980. Received a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from the United States Naval Academy in 1984 and a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1990. Earned a degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1991. Selected by NASA in December 1994. Flew on STS-85, STS-98, and STS-116, with over 593 hours in space, including over 19 extravehicular activity (EVA) hours during three spacewalks. Retired in November 2007.



Benjamin Alvin Drew: Born November 5, 1962, in Washington, DC. Graduated from Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC, in 1980. Received a bachelor of science degree in astronautical engineering and a bachelor of science degree in physics from the United States Air Force Academy in 1984 and a master of science degree in aerospace science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1995. Drew was selected as a mission specialist by NASA in July 2000 and is attending a master's degree program at Maxwell Air Force Base's Air War College. Flew on STS-118 in 2007 and STS-133 in 2011.



Jeanette J. Epps, Ph.D.: Born in Syracuse, NY. Received a bachelor of science degree in physics from LeMoyne College in 1992, and master of science degree and doctorate of philosophy degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland in 1994 and 2000. Selected in July 2009 for the 20th NASA astronaut class. Training includes scientific and technical briefings; intensive instruction in International Space Station systems, such as extravehicular activity (spacewalks), and robotics; physiological training; T-38 flight training; and water and wilderness survival training.



Frederick D. Gregory: Born January 7, 1941, in Washington, DC. Graduated from Anacostia High School, Washington, DC, in 1958. Received a bachelor of science degree from the United States Air Force Academy in 1964 and a master's degree in information systems from George Washington University in 1977. Was selected as an astronaut in January 1978. Is a veteran of three Shuttle missions and has logged over 455 hours in space. Served as pilot on STS-51B and was the spacecraft commander on STS-33 and STS-44. Led the Agency's Safety and Mission Assurance effort and, later, the Office of Space Flight. Retired as NASA's Deputy Administrator in 2005.

NASA's African-American Astronauts Continued



Bernard A. Harris, Jr.: Born June 26, 1956, in Temple, TX. Graduated from Sam Houston High School, San Antonio, TX, in 1974. Received a bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Houston in 1978 and a doctorate in medicine from Texas Tech University School of Medicine in 1982. Completed a residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in 1985. Trained as a flight surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, in 1988 and also received a master's degree in biomedical science from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1996. Selected by NASA in January 1990 and is a veteran of two space flights, with more than 438 hours in space on STS-55 and STS-63.



Joan E. Higginbotham: Born in Chicago, IL. Graduated from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Chicago, IL, in 1982. Received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1987, a master of management degree from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1992, and a master's degree in space systems from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1996. Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in April 1996 and flew on STS-116 in 2006. Was assigned to fly on STS-126 but retired from NASA in November 2007 to pursue a career in the public sector.



Mae C. Jemison, M.D.: Born October 17, 1956, in Decatur, AL. Graduated from Morgan Park High School, Chicago, IL, in 1973. Received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering (and fulfilled the requirements for a bachelor of arts degree in African and Afro-American studies) from Stanford University in 1977 and a doctorate degree in medicine from Cornell University in 1981. Jemison was selected for the astronaut program in June 1987 and was the science mission specialist on STS-47 (Spacelab-J) with over 190 hours in space.



Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.: Born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, SC. Graduated from Carver High School, Lake City, SC, in 1967. Received a bachelor of science degree in physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971 and a doctor of philosophy in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. Was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws from North Carolina A&T State University in 1978. Selected as an astronaut candidate in January 1978 and first flew on STS-41B, logging 191 hours in space before he died aboard Challenger.



Leland D. Melvin, NASA Associate Administrator for Education: Born February 15, 1964, in Lynchburg, VA. Graduated from Heritage High School, Lynchburg, VA, in 1982. Received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, in 1986 and a master of science degree in materials science engineering from the University of Virginia in 1991. Selected by NASA Johnson Space Center in June 1998 and flew on the STS-122 mission that delivered the European Space Agency's Columbus Laboratory to the International Space Station in February 2008. He flew aboard the STS-129 mission in 2009. Melvin was named Associate Administrator for Education in October 2010.



Bobby Satcher: Born and raised in Hampton, VA. Attended Denmark-Olar High School in Denmark, SC. Received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Went to medical school at Harvard University, came to NASA from a research post at Northwestern University in Illinois, and was an orthopedic surgeon in Chicago. Selected by NASA in 2004. He flew on STS-129 in November 2009, and retired in September 2011.



Winston E. Scott: Born August 6, 1950, in Miami, FL. Graduated from Coral Gables High School, Coral Gables, FL, in 1968. Received a bachelor of arts degree in music from Florida State University in 1972 and a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1980. Selected by NASA in March 1992. Flew on STS-72 in 1996 and STS-87 in 1997. Logged a total of 24 days, 14 hours, and 34 minutes in space, including three spacewalks totaling 19 hours and 26 minutes.



Stephanie D. Wilson: Born in 1966 in Boston, MA. Graduated from Taconic High School, Pittsfield, MA, in 1984. Received a bachelor of science degree in engineering science from Harvard University in 1988 and a master of science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas in 1992. Selected by NASA in April 1996. Completed her first space flight on STS-121 in 2006 and flew again on STS-120 in October 2007 and on STS-131 in April 2010.