



# NASA's African-American Astronauts



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



**Guion S. Bluford Jr.** Born in Philadelphia, PA, on November 22, 1942. Received a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1964; a Master of Science with distinction in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1974; a doctorate of philosophy in aerospace engineering with a minor in laser physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1978; and a Master in Business Administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1987. Became a NASA astronaut in August 1979. Bluford is a veteran of four spaceflights and was a Mission Specialist on STS-8, STS-61-A, STS-39 and STS-53.



**Charles F. Bolden Jr.** Born August 19, 1946, in Columbia, SC. Graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, SC, in 1964. Received a Bachelor of Science 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. Bolden is a veteran of four spaceflights, with over 680 hours in space. Served as Pilot on STS-61C and STS-31 and Commander on STS-45 and STS-60. Bolden was selected as the 12th NASA administrator and first African-American administrator in 2009, leading the agency to achieve NASA's mission and goals. He retired as NASA administrator in 2017.



**Yvonne Darlene Cagle, M.D.** Born in West Point, NY. Received a Bachelor of Arts 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. Cagle was selected by NASA in April 1996. Cagle is currently stationed at Ames Research Center where she leads the Astronaut Science

Liaison and Strategic Relationships, and is the Strategic Relationships Manager for Google and other Silicon Valley programmatic partnerships.



**Robert L. Curbeam Jr.** Born March 5, 1962, in Baltimore, MD. Graduated from Woodlawn High School, Baltimore County, MD in 1980. Received a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from the United States Naval Academy in 1984 and a Master of Science 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. Curbeam was selected by NASA in December 1994. He flew on STS-85, STS-98 and STS-116, logging over 593 hours in space, including over 19 spacewalk hours during three spacewalks.



**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 in astronautical engineering and a Bachelor of Science in physics from the United States Air Force Academy in 1984, and a Master of Science in aerospace science from Embry Riddle University in 1995. Drew was selected as a Mission Specialist by NASA in July 2000 and attended 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. Graduated from Thomas J. Corcoran High School, Syracuse, NY, in 1988. Received a Bachelor of Science in physics from LeMoyne College in 1992 and Master of Science and doctorate of philosophy in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland in 1994 and is 2000, respectively. Epps was selected in 2009. She is currently training for Starliner-1, the second crewed mission aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft.



**Victor J. Glover Jr.** Born in Pomona, CA. Graduated from Ontario High School, Ontario, CA, in 1994. Received a Bachelor of Science in general engineering from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA, in 1999, a Master of Science in flight test engineering from Air University, Edwards Air Force Base, CA,

in 2007, a Master of Science in systems engineering from Naval Postgraduate School in 2009, and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science from Air University, Montgomery, AL, in 2010. Glover was selected as an astronaut in 2013. Glover flew aboard the International Space Station as part of NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 mission, the first operational mission of the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft. He was the first black astronaut to perform a long-duration spaceflight.



**Frederick D. Gregory** Born January 7, 1941, in Washington, DC. Graduated from Anacostia High School, Washington, DC, in 1958. Received a Bachelor of Science from the United States Air Force Academy in 1964 and a master's degree in information systems from George Washington University in 1977. Selected as an astronaut

candidate in 1978. A veteran of three shuttle missions, he has logged over 455 hours in space. Served as Pilot on STS-51B and was the Commander on STS-33 and STS-44. Gregory led the agency's Safety and Mission Assurance effort and later the Office of Space Flight. Retired as NASA's Deputy Administrator in 2005.



**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 in biology from 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. Harris was selected by NASA in January 1990 and is a veteran of two spaceflights, 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 in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1987, a master's degree in management 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 in 1996 and flew on STS-116 in 2006.



**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 in chemical engineering (and fulfilled the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts 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 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 in physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971 and a doctorate of philosophy in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. Presented an honorary doctorate of laws from North Carolina A&T State University in 1978. McNair

was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1978 and first flew on STS 41-B, logging 191 hours in space, before he died aboard Challenger.



**Leland D. Melvin** Born February 15, 1964, in Lynchburg, VA. Graduated from Heritage High School, Lynchburg, VA, in 1982. Received a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Richmond in Richmond, VA, in 1986, and a Master of Science in materials science engineering from the University of Virginia in 1991.

Melvin was selected by NASA in June 1998 and flew on STS-122, which delivered the European Space Agency's Columbus Laboratory to the International Space Station. He flew on STS-129 in 2009. Melvin served as Associate Administrator for the NASA's Office of Education from 2010 until 2014.



**Bobby Satcher** Born and raised in Hampton, VA. Attended Denmark-Olar High School in Denmark, SC. Received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Satcher

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. NASA selected Satcher in 2004, and he flew as a Mission Specialist on STS-129 in 2009.



**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 in music from Florida State University in 1972 and a Master of Science in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1980. Selected by NASA in 1992. Scott flew on

STS-72 in 1996 and STS-87 in 1997. He 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 in engineering science from Harvard University in 1988 and a Master of Science in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas in 1992.

Wilson was selected by NASA in April 1996. She completed her first spaceflight on STS-121 in 2006. Wilson flew again on STS-120 in October 2007 and STS-131 in 2010.



**Jessica Watkins, Ph.D.** Born in Gaithersburg, Maryland, but considers Lafayette, Colorado her hometown. Received a Bachelor of Science in Geological and Environmental Sciences from Stanford University in Stanford, California and a Doctorate in Geology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Watkins conducted her

graduate research on the emplacement mechanisms of large landslides on Mars and Earth. She has worked at NASA's Ames Research Center and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and was a science team collaborator for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory rover, Curiosity. Selected as an astronaut in 2017. She is the first black woman astronaut to perform a long duration spaceflight as part of NASA's SpaceX Crew-4 mission to the International Space Station.

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