



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

# Biographical Data

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
Houston, Texas 77058

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**BRIAN T. O'LEARY (PH.D.)**  
**NASA ASTRONAUT (DECEASED)**

**PERSONAL DATA:** Born January 27, 1940, in Boston, Massachusetts. Died July 28, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Meredith, and two children from a former marriage. He enjoyed photography, hiking, cartooning, jazz piano and yoga.

**EDUCATION:** Graduated from Belmont High School, Belmont, Massachusetts, in 1957; received bachelor of arts degree in physics from Williams College in 1961, a masters of arts in astronomy from Georgetown University in 1964, and a doctor of philosophy in astronomy from the University of California at Berkeley in 1967.

**ORGANIZATIONS:** Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1975 to 2011); secretary of the Planetology Section, American Geophysical Union (1970 to 1976); team leader of the Asteroidal Resources Group, NASA Ames Summer Study on Space Settlements (1977).

**SPECIAL HONORS:** Recipient of NASA Distinguished Group Achievement Award, Mariner 10 Mission, 1975; Eagle Scout.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Authored or co-authored more than one hundred peer-reviewed scientific papers, including: "The influence of lunar mascons on its dynamical figure," *Nature*, 220, 1309, 1968; and O'Leary, Campbell and Sagan, "Lunar and planetary mass concentrations," *Science*, 165, 651, 1969. Was also an editor for several books, including *Space Manufacturing from Nonterrestrial Materials*, edited by O'Neill and O'Leary, vol. 57 of *Progress in Astronautics and Aeronautics*, AIAA, 1977; and *Space Resources and Space Settlements*, edited by O'Neill, Billingham, Gilbreath and O'Leary, NASA SP-428, 1979. O'Leary also authored more than ten books, including *Project Space Station*, Stackpole Books, 1983; and *Mars 1999*, Stackpole Books, 1987.

**EXPERIENCE:** From 1969 to 1971, O'Leary was assistant professor of astronomy at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; from 1970 to 1971, he was a senior consultant at the NASA Ames Research Center; from 1976 to 1981, he was a member of the research faculty for the Department of Physics at Princeton University, New Jersey; from 1982 to 1987, he was a senior scientist at Science Applications International Corporation in Hermosa Beach, California.

**NASA EXPERIENCE:** O'Leary was selected as a scientist-astronaut by NASA in August 1967. After completing a Ph.D. thesis on the physical properties of the Martian surface, O'Leary was specifically selected for a potential manned Mars mission when it was still in NASA's program plan. When that program was cancelled in 1968, he resigned from the astronaut program because of lack of prospects for a spaceflight.

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