

ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058

September 2025



Stanley G. Love

(Ph.D.) NASA Astronaut

Summary:

Dr. Stanley G. Love was selected as a NASA astronaut in 1998. He has Master of Science and Doctorate of Philosophy degrees in Astronomy from the University of Washington in Seattle. In 2008, Dr. Love flew aboard STS-122 to deliver and install the European Space Agency's Columbus module to the station. While onboard, Dr. Love performed two spacewalks to prepare for the installation, add two science payloads, and carry a failed ISS gyroscope to the shuttle for return to Earth. He currently works as the Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office's Rapid Prototyping Laboratory, developing cockpit displays and controls for Orion and forthcoming spacecraft.

Personal Data:

Born in San Diego, California, but considers Eugene, Oregon, to be his hometown. He is married with two children. His recreational interests include martial arts, alpine hiking, reading and writing science fiction, and appreciation of new music, cult films and anime.

Education:

Graduated from Winston Churchill High School, in Eugene, Oregon, in 1983. Earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California, in 1987. Studied at the University of Washington in Seattle, receiving a Master of Science degree in Astronomy in 1989 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Astronomy in 1993.

Experience:

Dr. Love worked summers at the University of Oregon in Eugene as a computer programming instructor (1984) and as an assistant in physics and chemistry laboratories (1985-1987). As a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Washington in Seattle, beginning in 1987, he taught undergraduate courses in general and planetary astronomy. He was a graduate research assistant at the University of Washington from 1989 to 1993, working on projects including space propulsion and energy storage, stellar photometry and spectroscopy, analysis of space-exposed surfaces, hypervelocity impact and particle capture, atmospheric entry heating of micrometeoroids, infrared imaging of the zodiacal light, and electron microscopy of interplanetary dust particles. Love moved to the University of Hawaii in Honolulu in 1994 for postdoctoral research on the formation of meteoritic chondrules, the collisional evolution of asteroids, and the possibility of meteorites from the planet Mercury. Love was awarded the O.K. Earl prize postdoctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology in 1995. His work there included computational fluid dynamic simulations of asteroid collisions, calibration of the Cassini spacecraft's dust-particle impact detector, and experimental shock compression of the mineral calcite. Love transferred to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a staff engineer in 1997 to work on computer simulations of spacecraft optical instrument systems and to participate in a laboratory-wide process re-engineering effort.

ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY



Stanley G. Love

NASA Experience:

Selected by NASA as an astronaut in June 1998, Love reported for training in August 1998. Basic astronaut candidate training included orientation briefings and tours; scientific and technical classes; instruction in space shuttle and International Space Station systems, and physiological training, ground school, and water and wilderness survival instruction to prepare for T-38 flight training.

After completion of the basic syllabus, Love received advanced astronaut training, including spacewalk classes and suited underwater practice sessions in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL), coursework and extensive simulator training to operate the shuttle and station robotic arms, instruction and qualification as a copilot for the rendezvous and docking of the shuttle with another orbiting spacecraft, and wilderness and cold-weather leadership and survival training in Alaska, Utah, and Canada. In his first technical assignment (1999), Love served the Astronaut Office as a representative to the Environmental Control and Life Support Systems engineering group, preparing for the first crews aboard the International Space Station (ISS). That work led to an appointment (2000) as a Capsule Communicator (CAPCOM) in the Mission Control Center for ISS Expeditions 1 to 7 and for shuttle missions STS-104 (ISS-7A), STS-108 (ISS-UF-1) and STS-112 (ISS-9A).

Following the Columbia accident (2003), Love served in the Astronaut Office's Exploration branch, where he participated in the Orbital Space Plane Expendable Launch Vehicle Human Flight Safety Certification Study to develop requirements for future human-rated launch systems, and later served on the Source Evaluation Board for the pivotal Orion Phase 2 contract. He investigated the polar environment as an analog for future space missions as a member of the 2004-2005 and 2012-2013 Antarctic Search for Meteorites (ANSMET) expeditions. In 2004, Love and fellow astronaut Ed Lu co-invented the gravity tractor, a novel method to controllably modify the orbits of hazardous asteroids. Love was assigned to Space Shuttle flight STS-122 in 2006, and spent the next two years preparing for, executing, and debriefing that mission. After STS-122, Love served as Crew Support Astronaut for the Expedition 18 crew and resumed duty as CAPCOM for Station Expeditions 17, 18, 22-26 and for Shuttle missions STS-127/ISS-2JA, STS-128/ISS-17A, STS-129/ISS-ULF3, STS-131/ISS-19A, STS-132/ISS-ULF4, STS-133/ISS-ULF5, STS-134/ISS-ULF6, and STS-135/ISS-ULF7 (the final Space Shuttle flight).

After leaving active flight status in 2010, Love served as a rover crew member in the Desert Research and Technology Studies simulated lunar surface mission in the Arizona desert and piloted DeepWorker submersibles for the Pavilion Lake Research Project in British Columbia. In 2011, he served as crew office representative to the Space Launch System Program team and also participated in efforts to human-rate the Atlas V rocket. He reprised his role as submersible pilot for the 16th NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) test, which was located off Key Largo, Florida, in 2012. Love worked on a rotational assignment in NASA Johnson Space Center's Human Exploration Development Support Directorate in 2012 and 2013, serving as a crew representative for space flight analogs and the development of future deep space exploration missions. He returned to the Astronaut Office in 2014, where he again served as a crew representative for the Space Launch System and continued to help plan for human exploration of asteroids, the Moon, and Mars. From 2015 to 2017 he acted as the Assistant to the Chief of the Astronaut Corps for Exploration. In 2017 he served as a field team member and science communicator for the BASALT research project, a Mars-analog scientific exploration project at Kilauea volcano in Hawaii. Since 2017, he has served as the Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office's Rapid Prototyping Laboratory (RPL), which has the responsibility for designing and testing the digital displays, hand controllers, hardware switches, and other crew interfaces for Orion and forthcoming spacecraft.

ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY



Stanley G. Love

Spaceflight Experience:

In 2008, Love completed his first spaceflight on the crew of STS-122, logging more than 306 hours in space, including more than 15 hours in two spacewalks. STS-122 Atlantis (February 7 through February 20, 2008) was the 24th shuttle mission to visit the ISS. The primary objective of the flight was to carry the European Space Agency's Columbus laboratory module to the Station and install it there permanently. Love's first spacewalk helped to prepare the Columbus laboratory for installation. On the second, he helped to add two science payloads to the outside of Columbus and to carry a failed ISS gyroscope to the shuttle for return to Earth. Love's flight duties also included operation of both the station and shuttle robotic arms. STS-122 was a crew replacement mission, delivering Expedition 16 flight engineer, European Space Agency astronaut Léopold Eyharts, and returning home with Expedition 16 flight engineer, NASA astronaut Daniel Tani. The STS-122 mission was accomplished in 12 days, 18 hours, 21 minutes and 40 seconds and traveled 5,296,832 statute miles in 203 Earth orbits.

Awards/Honors:

National Merit and Oregon State (Sigma Chi) Scholar (1983-1984); Dean's List Distinction, Harvey Mudd College (1985, 1986, 1987); O.K. Earl Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship, California Institute of Technology (1995); NOVA Award, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (1998); Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Group Achievement Award (Expedition 6 Spacewalk Team 2003); NASA Space Flight Awareness Team Awards (Orbital Space Plane Team 2004, ISS Testbed for Analog Research Team 2013); United States Antarctica Service Medal (2006); NASA Space Flight Medal (STS-122, 2008); Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Certificate of Appreciation (International Space Station Six-Person Crew Effort 2009); Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Individual Performance Awards (2003, 2004, 2006, 2008-2012, 2014-2018); NASA Group Achievement Awards (Orion Phase 2 Source Evaluation Team 2004, STS-128/ISS-17A Capcom Team 2009, STS-134/ISS-ULF6 CAPCOM Team Leader 2012, NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations [NEEMO] 16 Mission Operations Team 2012, SLS Booster Critical Design Review Team 2015, Crewed EM-1 Feasibility Study Team 2018); World Taekwondo Federation Headquarters (Kukkiwon) Letter of Commendation (2011); NASA Honor Group Award (Asteroid Redirect Mission Concept Development Team 2014); NASA Ames Honor Award (FINESSE Team, 2017); Harvey Mudd College Outstanding Alumnus Award (2017); International Space Station Program Certificate of Appreciation (Future Capabilities Team, 2018); NASA 20-Year Service Award (2018); System, Apparatus and Method for Pedal Control, U.S. Patent # 10,180,699 (2019).

Organizations:

Association of Space Explorers (Lifetime Member); American Geophysical Union; American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Lifetime Member and Associate Fellow); Meteoritical Society (Lifetime Member); Harvey Mudd College Alumni Association.