



NASA's African American Astronauts



Michael Anderson: Born December 25, 1959, in Plattsburgh, New York. Graduated from Cheney High School in Cheney, Washington, in 1977. Received a bachelor of science degree in physics/astronomy from University of Washington, 1981, and a master of science degree in physics from Creighton University, 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, Pennsylvania, 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 in business administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, in 1987. Became a NASA astronaut in August 1979. Bluford was a veteran of four space flights, 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, South Carolina. Graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, South Carolina, 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. Bolden was 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.



Yvonne Darlene Cagle, M.D.: Born in West Point, New York. 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, Texas, 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, and is qualified for flight assignment.



Robert L. Curbeam, Jr.: Born March 5, 1962, in Baltimore, Maryland. Graduated from Woodlawn High School, Baltimore County, Maryland, 1980. Received a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from the United States Naval Academy, 1984, and a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, 1990. Earned a degree of aeronautical & astronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, 1991. Curbeam was selected by NASA in December 1994, and flew on STS-85, STS-98, and STS-116 with over 593 hours in space, including over 19 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 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 is attending a master's degree program at Maxwell AFB's Air War College. Flew on STS-118 in 2007.



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. A veteran of three Shuttle missions he has logged over 455 hours in space. Served as pilot on STS-51B, and was the spacecraft 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, Texas. Graduated from Sam Houston High School, San Antonio, Texas, in 1974. Received a bachelor of science degree 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 space flights, with more than 438 hours in space on STS-55 and STS-63.



Joan E. Higginbotham: Born in Chicago, Illinois. Graduated from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Chicago, Illinois, in 1982. Received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, in 1987, a masters of management from Florida Institute of Technology in 1992, and a masters in space systems from Florida Institute of Technology in 1996. Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in April 1996, and flew on STS-116 in 2006. Higginbotham 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, Alabama. Graduated from Morgan Park High School, Chicago, Illinois, in 1973. Received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering (and fulfilled the requirements for a B.A. 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, South Carolina. Graduated from Carver High School, Lake City, South Carolina, 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 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 January 1978 and first flew on STS 41-B, and logged 191 hours in space before he died aboard Challenger.



Leland D. Melvin: Born February 15, 1964 in Lynchburg, Virginia. Graduated from Heritage High School, Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1982. Received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia in 1986, and a master of science degree in materials science engineering from the University of Virginia in 1991. Melvin was selected by NASA JSC in June 1998, and flew on STS-122 mission that delivered the European Space Agency's Columbus Laboratory to the International Space Station in February 2008. He has been assigned to the STS-129 mission in 2009.



Bobby Satcher: Born and raised in Hampton, Virginia. Attended Denmark-Olar High School in Denmark, South Carolina. Received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned a Ph.D. at MIT. 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. He is a mission specialist candidate. He has been assigned to the STS-129 mission in 2009.



Winston E. Scott: Born August 6, 1950, in Miami, Florida. Graduated from Coral Gables High School, Coral Gables, Florida, 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. Scott flew on STS-72 in 1996 and STS-87 in 1997, and 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, Massachusetts. Graduated from Taconic High School, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 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. Wilson was selected by NASA in April 1996, and completed her first space flight on STS-121 in 2006 and again on STS-120 in October 2007.