

NASA ASTRONAUTS

Where Are They Now?

Photographs courtesy NASA



Neil Armstrong, the first person to set foot on the moon, on July 20, 1969, taught aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati for eight years after he resigned from NASA in 1971. From 1982 to 1992, Armstrong was chairman of computing technologies at Aviation, Inc., in Virginia, which develops software for flight scheduling. He then became chairman of the board of AIL Systems, Inc., a New York company that develops antennas. AIL Systems merged with EDO Corporation in 2000 and Armstrong retired as its chairman in 2002.

Buzz Aldrin, lunar module pilot for Apollo 11, accompanied Neil Armstrong on the first moon landing. He resigned from NASA in 1971 and became commander of the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Aldrin retired from the Air Force in 1972 and became a consultant for Comprehensive Care Corporation in Newport Beach, California, which provides health care. He lectures and consults on space sciences with Starcraft Enterprises. Aldrin has written several books, including one about the Apollo program, *Men From Earth*.



Michael Collins, the command module pilot of the Apollo 11 mission, remained in lunar orbit while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon. Collins left NASA in 1970, and became assistant U.S. secretary of state for public affairs. In 1971, he became director of the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution and was responsible for planning and construction of the new museum building, which opened in 1976. He worked with an aerospace and defense company in the 1980s and left to form Michael Collins Associates, a Washington, D.C. consulting firm. Collins has written several books on space.



Sally K. Ride, the first American woman in space, in 1983, was part of three space missions. After retiring from NASA in 1987, she joined the University of California at San Diego in 1989 as a professor of physics and director of its California Space Institute. Ride is president and CEO of Sally Ride Science, a company she founded in 2001 to support girls and young women interested in science and math. It creates science programs and publications for students. She has also written several science books for children.



Sunita Williams served as a flight engineer aboard the International Space Station in 2006-07. She holds the record for the longest single space flight by a woman at 195 days. Williams ran the Boston Marathon 338 kilometers above Earth at the space station in April 2007. It was the first time an astronaut was an official participant in a marathon. Williams is deputy chief at the NASA Astronaut Office.



The only scientist among the 12 astronauts who have walked on the moon, **Harrison Schmitt** has the varied experience of being a geologist, pilot, astronaut, administrator, businessman, writer and U.S. senator. A Fulbright scholar in Oslo, Norway, Schmitt earned a Ph.D. in geology from Harvard University before serving as the lunar module pilot of Apollo 17, the final moon mission. Schmitt was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1976, representing New Mexico for six years. Since 1982, Schmitt has worked as a consultant, corporate director, writer and speaker on matters related to space, technology and public policy. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in New Mexico, where he is also engaged in research with its Fusion Technology Institute.

Moon Landing



40 YEARS

Those Who Did Not Return

Three astronauts died when a flash fire broke out at Cape Canaveral, Florida on January 27, 1967 during a full dress rehearsal for Apollo 1.

From left: **Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom**, commander; **Edward H. White**, command pilot; and **Roger B. Chaffee**, pilot.



The crew of the Challenger space shuttle died when their spacecraft exploded during launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on January 28, 1986.



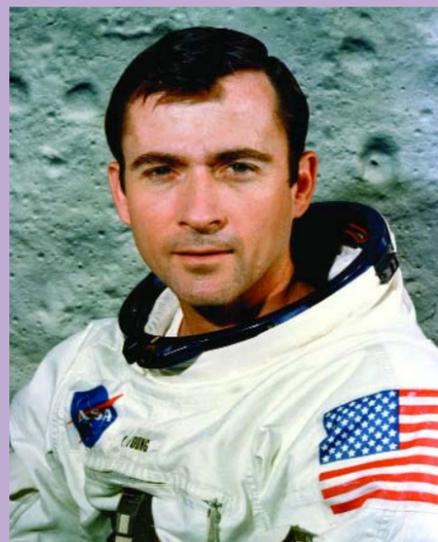
Front row from left: **Michael J. Smith**, pilot; **Francis R. (Dick) Scobee**, commander; **Ronald E. McNair**, mission specialist. Back row from left: **Ellison S. Onizuka**, mission specialist; **Sharon Christa McAuliffe**, school teacher; **Gregory B. Jarvis**, payload specialist; and **Judith A. Resnik**, mission specialist.

On February 1, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated during re-entry over Texas, killing all seven crew members.

Top row from left: **David M. Brown**, mission specialist; **Willie McCool**, pilot; **Michael P. Anderson**, payload commander. Bottom row from left: **Kalpana Chawla**, mission specialist; **Rick D. Husband**, commander; **Laurel Clark**, mission specialist; and **Ilan Ramon**, payload specialist.



A veteran of four space flights, **Eileen Collins** logged over 872 hours in space. She became the first woman to pilot a space shuttle when she flew aboard STS-63 Discovery in 1995, the first flight of the Russian American Space Program. Collins earned the dual distinction of commanding a space shuttle, STS-93, in 1999. She retired from NASA in May 2006, and the following year became a director of the United Services Automobile Association, which provides insurance, online banking and financial advice to America's military families.



John W. Young first flew into space aboard Gemini 3 in 1965 and landed on the moon during the 1972 Apollo 16 mission. He also flew the first space shuttle. Young launched into space six times, seven counting his liftoff from the moon to return to Earth. He was chief of the Astronaut Office from 1974 to 1987, with responsibility for coordinating and scheduling activities of the astronauts. In 1996, Young became associate technical director responsible for operational and safety oversight at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. He retired from NASA in 2004.



In 1962, **John Glenn, Jr.** piloted the Mercury-Atlas 6 Friendship 7 spacecraft, becoming the first American to orbit the Earth. After resigning from NASA in 1964, and retiring from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965, Glenn was a business executive until his election as senator from Ohio in 1974. After a brief stint as governor to fill a vacancy, he was reelected to the Senate and continued until his retirement in 1999. At 77, Glenn returned to space as payload specialist aboard Discovery in 1998.



Mae C. Jemison, the first African American woman in space, resigned from NASA in 1993 and founded a technology design company, The Jemison Group, in Houston, Texas. Projects included the use of satellite-based telecommunications to facilitate health care in West Africa. In 1994, Jemison started the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence in honor of her mother. It develops science materials for teachers and students. Jemison also founded The BioSentient Corp. in 1999 which develops equipment to provide mobile monitoring of the involuntary nervous system. She has also taught at Cornell University and Dartmouth College.



Eugene Cernan, the second American to walk in space, was also the last man to leave his footprints on the moon, as commander of Apollo 17. He left NASA in 1976 and joined Coral Petroleum, Inc., in Houston, Texas, as a vice president. His responsibilities were to develop a worldwide supply and marketing strategy. During this period, Cernan continued his education at the Wharton School of Finance and Northwestern University. In 1981, he started The Cernan Corporation, a space-related technology and marketing consulting firm.