

GENERAL DYNAMICS

nasco



**USNS *Wally Schirra*
(T-AKE 8)**

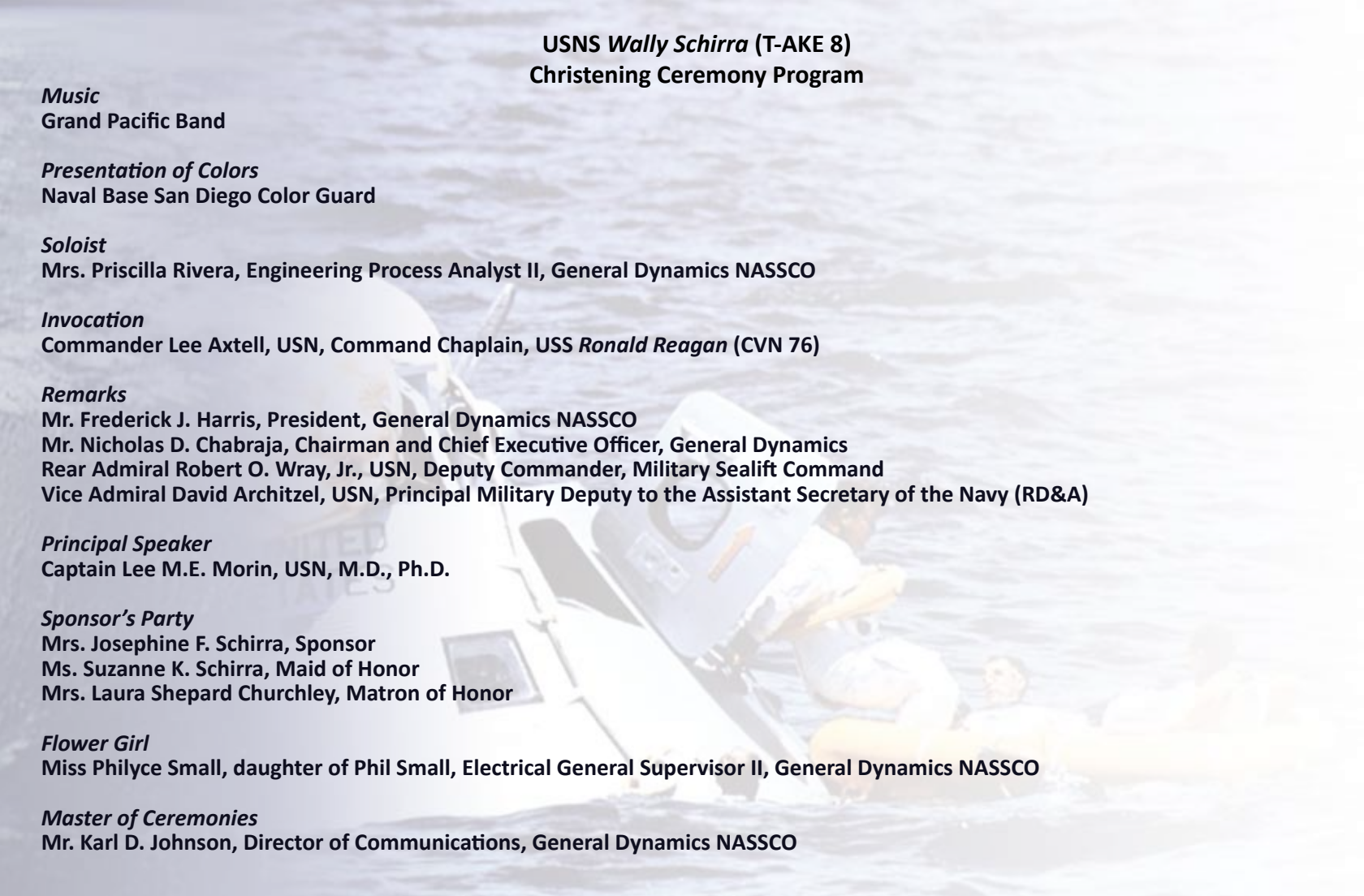
**Christening Ceremony
March 8, 2009**

A photograph of a rocket launch from Earth, showing the rocket ascending and the Earth's surface below. The rocket is white with a black band and has "USA" written on it. The Earth's surface is visible in the background, showing clouds and landmasses.

Acknowledgements

**Start of Construction Honoree: Mrs. Nitiananda Crowe
Keel Honoree: Mrs. Hannah L. Goddard
Shore Person: Mrs. Nancy O'Donnell
Trigger Person: Mrs. Eleanor Chabraja**

***The historical images used in this program were provided by:
The Schirra family and NASA, primarily from www.jsc.nasa.gov, www.nasaimages.org and <http://nix.nasa.gov>
Ship construction pictures were taken by Ken Wright, General Dynamics.***

The background of the entire page is a faded, light-colored photograph of a boat, likely a motorboat or speedboat, on the water. The boat is white with a blue stripe and is moving towards the left. The water is a light blue-grey color. The text is overlaid on this background.

**USNS *Wally Schirra* (T-AKE 8)
Christening Ceremony Program**

Music

Grand Pacific Band

Presentation of Colors

Naval Base San Diego Color Guard

Soloist

Mrs. Priscilla Rivera, Engineering Process Analyst II, General Dynamics NASSCO

Invocation

Commander Lee Axtell, USN, Command Chaplain, USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76)

Remarks

Mr. Frederick J. Harris, President, General Dynamics NASSCO

Mr. Nicholas D. Chabraja, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, General Dynamics

Rear Admiral Robert O. Wray, Jr., USN, Deputy Commander, Military Sealift Command

Vice Admiral David Architzel, USN, Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (RD&A)

Principal Speaker

Captain Lee M.E. Morin, USN, M.D., Ph.D.

Sponsor's Party

Mrs. Josephine F. Schirra, Sponsor

Ms. Suzanne K. Schirra, Maid of Honor

Mrs. Laura Shepard Churchley, Matron of Honor

Flower Girl

Miss Philyce Small, daughter of Phil Small, Electrical General Supervisor II, General Dynamics NASSCO

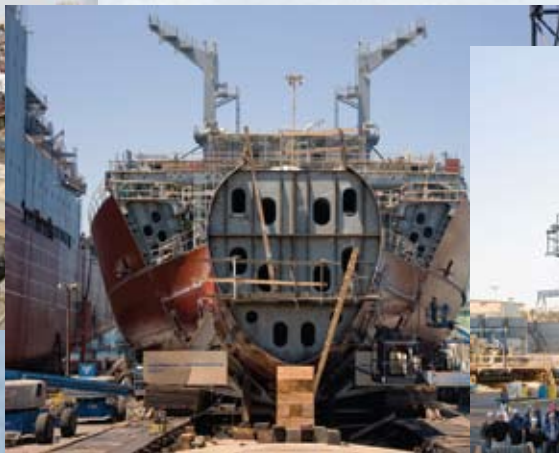
Master of Ceremonies

Mr. Karl D. Johnson, Director of Communications, General Dynamics NASSCO

USNS *Wally Schirra* (T-AKE 8)

Designed and built by General Dynamics NASSCO

Mission: To deliver ammunition, provisions, stores, spare parts, potable water and petroleum products to strike groups and other naval forces, by serving as a shuttle ship or station ship.



Design Particulars:

Length: 210 Meters (689 ft.)
Beam: 32.2 Meters (105.6 ft.)
Draft: 9.1 Meters (29.8 ft.)
Displacement: 40,950 Metric tons
Speed: 20 Knots

Max dry cargo weight: 6,700 Metric tons
Cargo potable water: 52,800 Gallons
Cargo fuel: 23,450 Barrels
Propulsion: Single screw, diesel-electric



Walter Marty Schirra, Jr.



Captain Walter “Wally” M. Schirra, Jr., was born into an aviation family on March 12, 1923, in Hackensack, New Jersey. His father, Walter Sr., flew bombing and reconnaissance missions over World War I Germany and was a barnstormer. His mother, Florence, sometimes stood on the wing of her husband’s biplane. By the time he was 15, Captain Schirra was flying his father's airplane.

Captain Schirra briefly studied aeronautical engineering at the Newark College of Engineering before he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1942. He graduated from Annapolis in June 1945, and served the final months of World War II as an officer aboard the cruiser USS *Alaska* (CB 1). After the war ended, he trained as a pilot and became the second naval aviator to log 1,000 hours in jet aircraft.

During the Korean War, Captain Schirra was an exchange pilot with the U.S. Air Force. He served as a flight leader with the 136th Bomb Wing and was the operations officer of the 154th Fighter Bomber Squadron. He flew 90 combat missions between 1951 and 1952. He is credited with shooting down one MiG-15 and damaging two others. After his tour in Korea, he flew the F7U-3 Cutlass fighter as a test pilot and helped evaluate the F-4 Phantom fighter for naval service.

On April 2, 1959, Captain Schirra was chosen as one of the original seven American astronauts. He became the fifth American in space on October 3, 1962,



piloting the *Sigma 7* spacecraft on a six-orbit mission that lasted nine hours, 13 minutes and 11 seconds. On December 15, 1965, he flew into space for a second time in Gemini 6 with Thomas Stafford. The pair conducted the first manned, space rendezvous with Gemini 7

astronauts Frank Borman and James Lovell, Jr. While on the 26-hour Gemini mission, Captain Schirra became known for playing “Jingle Bells” on a harmonica he smuggled aboard.

On October 11, 1968, Captain Schirra became the first person to fly in space three times as mission commander of Apollo 7, the first manned flight of the Apollo program.





With crewmates Donn Eisele and Walter Cunningham, he spent eleven days in Earth's orbit, performing rendezvous exercises with the upper stage of the Saturn 1-B vehicle that launched them into space. During the Apollo 7 mission, Captain Schirra caught what was perhaps the most famous cold in NASA history. He took Actifed® to relieve his symptoms upon the advice of the flight surgeon. Years later, he became a spokesman for the cold medicine in television commercials.



Captain Schirra retired from the Navy and resigned from NASA on July 1, 1969. In his career, he logged 4,577 hours of flight time, 295 of which were in space, and made 267 carrier landings. He was the only person to fly in America's first three space programs: Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. He served as a news consultant during later Apollo missions and co-anchored the broadcast of the first lunar landing with Walter Cronkite and Arthur C. Clarke.

Captain Schirra was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame on July 26, 1986. In 2005, he co-authored the book, *The Real Space Cowboys*, with Ed Buckbee. The book is an account of the Mercury Seven from their selection to be astronauts into retirement. He was also a major contributor to the 2007 book, *In the Shadow of the Moon*, which captured his final published thoughts on his life and career.



Captain Walter "Wally" Schirra, Jr. died on May 3, 2007, in La Jolla, California. His ashes were later committed to the sea during a burial-at-sea ceremony aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76). On October 20, 2008, NASA posthumously awarded a Distinguished Service Medal to Captain Schirra for his Apollo 7 mission.



Mrs. Josephine F. Schirra
Sponsor



Mrs. Josephine “Jo” F. Schirra is the wife of the late Captain Walter “Wally” M. Schirra, Jr., USN (Ret.).

Jo was born in Seattle, Washington. She attended Mills College in Oakland, California. She married Captain Schirra in 1946 and followed him throughout his career as a naval officer, astronaut and civilian.

As the daughter and wife of Naval officers, Jo has travelled the world with her family. She and Captain Schirra have two children: Walter M. Schirra III, who resides in San Francisco, California; and Suzanne Schirra, who resides in Vail, Colorado.

Jo lives in Rancho Santa Fe, California, where she and Wally retired. She currently serves as a board member of *Give Kids the World*, a non-profit organization that creates magical memories for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. She is also on the Board of Trustees for the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Ms. Suzanne K. Schirra
Maid Of Honor

Ms. Suzanne K. Schirra is the daughter of Captain and Mrs. Wally Schirra. Born in La Jolla, California, she currently resides in Vail, Colorado.

Suzanne graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in art history. She is also a graduate of the Colorado Institute of Art with a degree in visual art, and has studied abroad near Florence, Italy.

A full time artist, Suzanne's paintings feature dogs. Her artwork is collected internationally and shown in galleries throughout the western United States. She also donates paintings to various animal rescue groups around the country to auction at fundraising events, including the Helen Woodward Animal Center in San Diego.



Mrs. Laura Shepard Churchley
Matron of Honor

Mrs. Laura Shepard Churchley is the eldest daughter of Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard, Jr., USN (Ret.). Born in Wilmington, Delaware, Laura lives in Evergreen, Colorado, with her husband, Frederick William Churchley III.

Laura has two children: a daughter, Lark, and a son, Bartlett, both of whom reside in Colorado.

Laura graduated from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, with a bachelor's degree in art history. She serves on the Kansas Cosmosphere Foundation Board in Hutchinson, Kansas; and the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She is also the ship's sponsor of USNS *Alan Shepard* (T-AKE 3).



Frederick J. Harris
President, General Dynamics NASSCO



Mr. Frederick J. Harris became president of General Dynamics NASSCO and a vice president of General Dynamics Corporation on January 1, 2006. Prior to that, Mr. Harris was the senior vice president of programs at General Dynamics Electric Boat, where he was responsible for the execution of all submarine design, construction and repair programs.

Mr. Harris began his shipbuilding career in 1973 as a senior engineer for Electric Boat's Trident ballistic missile submarine program. For his accomplishments later as program manager of the Virginia-class submarine design phase, Harris received the Maine Maritime Academy Outstanding Alumni Award for the Year 2000 and, in 2002, received the annual William M. Kennedy Award from the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. In 2003, he was included on the Maine Maritime Academy's Wall of Honor for his accomplishments in the marine field.

Mr. Harris was born in Framingham, Massachusetts. A 1963 graduate of Hopkinton High School, he graduated from the Maine Maritime Academy in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in marine engineering. He sailed for several years as a U.S. merchant marine, notably aboard the U.S. registered *SS Transglobe*, the most decorated American merchant ship of the Vietnam War. He holds a Coast Guard chief engineer's license of unlimited horsepower. In 1972, he received a master's degree in business administration from Babson College, graduating with distinction.

Nicholas D. Chabraja
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, General Dynamics

Mr. Nicholas D. Chabraja became chairman and chief executive officer of General Dynamics on June 1, 1997.

Mr. Chabraja had been vice chairman, and has been a member of the company's board of directors since 1994.

Mr. Chabraja joined the company in January 1993 as senior vice president and general counsel. From March 1994 to December 1996, he was executive vice president, with the company's strategic planning, finance, legal and investor relations functions reporting to him.

Prior to joining General Dynamics, Mr. Chabraja was a senior partner in the Chicago law firm Jenner & Block, where he was involved in General Dynamics' legal affairs for more than 20 years.

Mr. Chabraja was born in November 1942 in Gary, Indiana. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Northwestern University in 1964 and a juris doctor degree from that school in 1967. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He serves on the boards of trustees for Ford's Theatre (Washington, D.C.) and Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.). He is also chairman of the council of trustees for the Association of the United States Army, and a director of Ceridian Corporation and Northern Trust Corporation.



Rear Admiral Robert O. Wray, Jr., USN
Deputy Commander, Military Sealift Command



Rear Admiral Robert O. Wray is a 1979 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. After graduating from nuclear power school and Surface Warfare Officers School, he served aboard USS *Mississippi* (CGN 40) from 1980 until 1984.

He was then assigned as shift engineer and leading engineering officer at the aircraft carrier prototype reactors facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He left active duty in November 1986 and was commissioned in the Navy Reserve.

In the Navy Reserve, Rear Admiral Wray has served at sea and ashore, and has commanded five reserve units. Most recently, he was the Navy Reserve commander for U.S. Naval Forces Europe and the commander of U.S. Sixth Fleet Detachment 802. In 2004, Rear Admiral Wray served on a Pentagon interagency team working for secretaries Rumsfeld and Powell to coordinate the transition of sovereignty in Iraq. He later was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, as security officer for the U.S. agency charged with rebuilding Iraq.

In his civilian career, Rear Admiral Wray founded and ran companies in manufacturing, construction, services, energy and information technology. Most recently, he was vice president and site manager for Science Applications International Company (SAIC) in Rhode Island.

In October 2007, Rear Admiral Wray took a leave of absence from SAIC and was assigned as deputy commander of Military Sealift Command.

Vice Admiral David Architzel, USN
Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Research, Development and Acquisition)

Vice Admiral David Architzel is currently serving as the principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the navy for research, development, and acquisition. He assumed his duties on August 6, 2007, after serving as the program executive officer for aircraft carriers.

At sea, Vice Admiral Architzel served as the executive officer of USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and Pre-Commissioning Unit *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74). He served as the commanding officer of USS *Guam* (LPH 9), which was the flagship for the commander of Amphibious Squadron Two; and the sixth commanding officer of USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71).

A career naval aviator, Vice Admiral Architzel has accumulated over 5,000 flight hours: 4,300 in the S-3 Viking and the remainder in some 30 other aircraft types in his role as a test pilot at NAS Patuxent River. He served in VS-30, deploying aboard USS *Forrestal* (CV-59); and was a maintenance officer for VS-28, deploying aboard USS *Independence* (CV 62). He later returned to VS-30 as the executive officer and subsequently as commanding officer.

Vice Admiral Architzel was born in Ogdensburg, New York, and raised in Long Island, New York. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in June 1973 from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in aeronautical systems from the University of West Florida.



Captain Lee M.E. Morin, USN, M.D., Ph.D.
NASA Astronaut
Principal Speaker

A native of Manchester, New Hampshire, Captain Lee M.E. Morin graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1974 and began his professional career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Over the next 10 years, he earned several advanced degrees, including doctorates in medicine and microbiology from New York University, and completed two years of general surgery residency training.

In 1982, Captain Morin was commissioned as an officer in the Naval Reserve and entered active duty the following year. His duty assignments include USS *Henry M. Jackson* (SSBN-730), Naval Aerospace Medical Institute, 3rd Force Marine Reconnaissance Company, Naval Air Station Pensacola and Administrative Support Unit Bahrain during Operation Desert Storm. He qualified as an undersea medical officer, diving medical officer and submarine medical officer, and earned his “Wings of Gold” as a naval flight surgeon. In 1996, he completed his residency training in aerospace medicine at the Naval Aerospace and Operational Medical Institute.

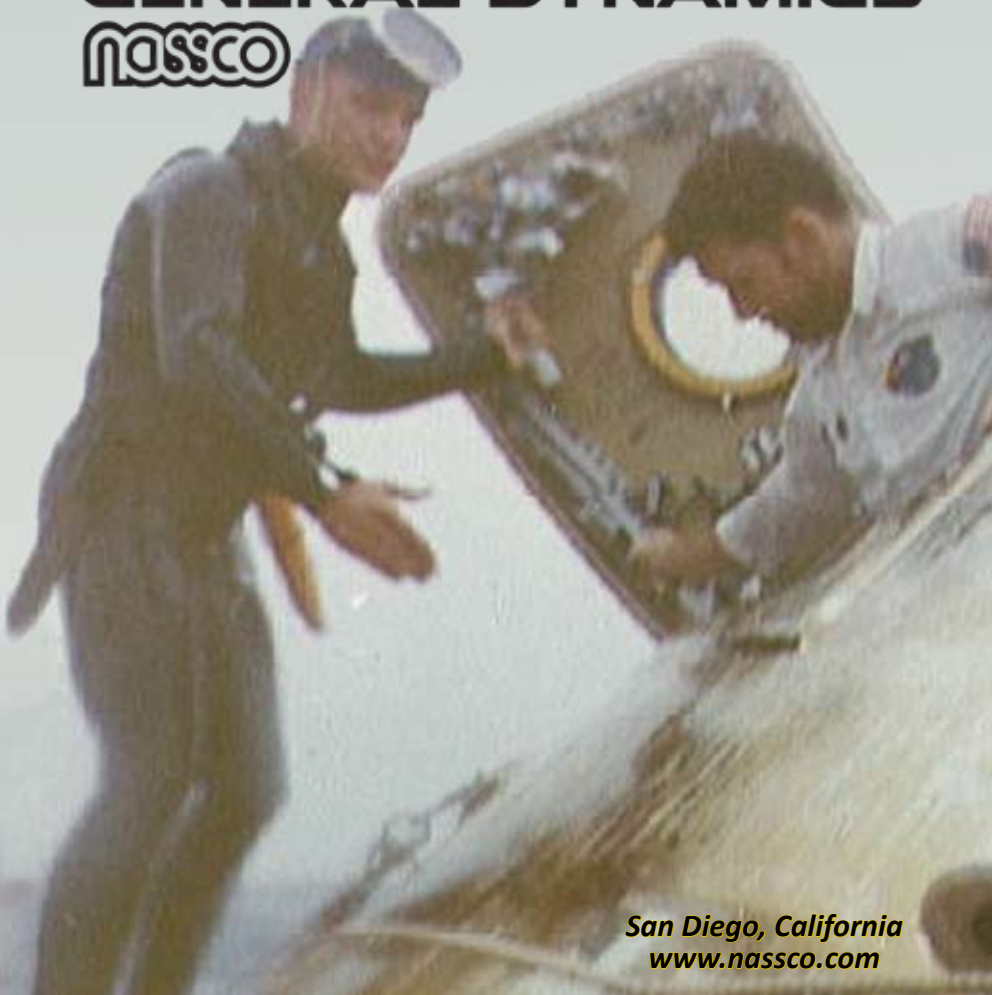
Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in April 1996, Captain Morin qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist two years later. He was assigned to the STS-110 crew, who flew the 13th shuttle mission to the International Space Station. During his 11-day spaceflight aboard the shuttle *Atlantis* in April 2002, Captain Morin performed two “spacewalks,” totaling more than 14 hours. He later served as deputy assistant secretary of state for health, space and science, before returning to NASA, where he is working on the cockpit of the next manned spacecraft, the Crew Exploration Vehicle.





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(T-AKE 8)**

*San Diego, California
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