

Norman Earl Thagard

Presentation by A.M.



Early Life

- Norman E. Thagard was born July 3, 1943, in Marianna, Florida to James E. Thagard and Mary F. Key.
- Though he considers Jacksonville, Florida, to be his hometown as that's where he spent most of his childhood.
- He liked to listen to classical music on his free time and still does to this day.

Education

- In 1961 Norman graduated from Paxon Senior High School in Jacksonville, Florida.
- In 1965 he received a bachelor of science degree in engineering science from Florida State University.
- In 1966 received a master of science degrees in engineering science from Florida State University.
- In 1977 he received a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas.
- In 2007 he received a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Florida.

Experience

- While Norman was earning his degrees, he held a number of research and teaching post as well.
- Norman entered active duty in September 1966 for the United States Marine Corps Reserve. In 1967 he achieved the rank of Captain.
- Norman was designated a naval aviator in 1968, and was assigned to duty flying F-4 Phantom IIs with VMFA-333 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina.
- In total, Norman flew 163 combat missions in Vietnam while he was assigned to VMFA-115 from January 1969 to 1970. He returned to the United States afterwards and was assigned as a aviation weapons division officer with VMFA-251 at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Experience Part 2

- In 1971 he continued his academic studies. He was pursuing additional studies in electrical engineering as well as a degree in medicine. He was interning in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. He is a licensed physician.
- In total, Norman has logged 2,200 hours of flight time, mostly consisting of piloting jet aircraft. Also including space craft.

NASA Career

- In 1978 Norman was chosen to become an astronaut candidate by NASA. Norman completed a one-year training and evaluation period in August 1979. This made him eligible for an assignment as a mission specialist on future Space Shuttle flights.
- Norman is a veteran of five space flights and has logged over 140 days in space. In 1983, he was a mission specialist on STS-7. STS-51-B in 1985, STS-30 in 1989, was the payload commander on STS-42 in 1992, and was the cosmonaut and researcher on the Russian Mir-18 mission in 1995.

NASA Career

- Norman's first space mission was on the crew of STS-7. It launched in on June 18, 1983 from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This was the second flight for the Orbiter Challenger and the first mission with a crew of five people.
- On June 24, 1983 they landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California. The mission duration was a total of 147 hours.
- For Norman's last mission he was a crew member for the Russian Mir 18 mission. There was a total of Twenty eight experiments that were conducted. The mission durrection was a 115 day flight. On March 14, 1995, liftoff initiated from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakstan. The mission ended in a landing at the Kennedy Space Center in the Space Shuttle Atlantis on July 7, 1995.

Present

Norman is now:

- A tenured Professor at the FAMU - FSU College of Engineering.
- Co-founder and Executive Director, Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee.
- Advisor for Space Adventures, Ltd., a company offering aerospace experiences, including orbital flight.
- Member of the Board of Directors of EMS Technologies, Inc.

Awards

- Norman was awarded numerous medals. This including 11 Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Marine Corps "E" Award, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.
- He was also inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Recognized in Guinness Book of Records for setting U.S. human space flight records in 1997.

Images

