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Guion iii bluford

Guion “Guy” Bluford is a retired NASA astronaut who became famous in 1983 when he became the first African American to go to space. His first mission was in the Orbiter Challenger and was codenamed STS-8. Bluford participated as a mission specialist. After that, he was part of the crew in other missions until 1992 when he left NASA. Guion’s accomplishments and career are very impressive and thanks to this he has earned a place in history as one important figure in space exploration. The following fact sheet will give you a quick look at his life and in the following section, we will dive deeper into the details. Fact Sheet Full nameGuion Stewart Bluford Jr.Date of birthNovember 22, 1942Place of birthPhiladelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.Astronaut NicknameGuyOccupationEngineer, Fighter Pilot, AstronautMilitary rankColonel, United States Air ForceStatusRetiredEducationBachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering, Penn State UniversityMaster’s degree in aerospace engineering, Air Force Institute of TechnologyPh.D. in aerospace engineering, Air Force Institute of TechnologyMaster’s degree in business administration, University of Houston–Clear LakeTotal time in space28d 10h 33mNASA missionsSTS-8STS-61-ASTS-39STS-53AwardsNASA Exceptional Service MedalNASA Distinguished Service MedalInternational Space Hall of FameU.S. Astronaut Hall of FameThe Pennsylvania Society Gold MedalDefense Superior Service MedalLegion of MeritAir Force Meritorious Service MedalAir Force Commendation MedalOther ten Air Force Medals Biography “You are paving the way for many others and making it plain that we are in an era of brotherhood here in our land” President Ronald Regan talking about Guion Bluford The full name of Guion Bluford is Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 22, 1942. His mother was a school teacher and his father was a mechanical engineer. This helped him develop an interest in engineering from an early age and seek a career in the field. Guion attended Overbrook High School and he graduated in 1960 to go to Pennsylvania State University. In college, Bluford was the only African American student in engineering school. This didn’t stop him from earning a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering. After this, he joined the Air Force where he trained to become a combat pilot at Williams Air Force Base. In 1964, Guion married his wife, Linda Tull. They have two sons together named Guion Bluford III and James Bluford. Once he earned his pilot wings, Guion was assigned to participate in the Vietnam war where he flew 144 combat missions. Upon his return from Vietnam, he was assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas where he served as an instructor pilot, assistant flight commander, and evaluation officer. In 1972 Guion decided to pursue a master’s degree in aerospace engineering at the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology which he got two years later. Guion was still not done and in 1978 he got a Ph.D., also in aerospace engineering. He was assigned to other roles in the Air Force until 1978 when he applied to NASA’s astronaut program and was selected out from thousands of applicants. One of the other applicants that were selected was Sally Ride who would become the first American woman to go to space. After a few years of training and working various scientific and engineering jobs at NASA, he was finally chosen for the eight space shuttle mission (STS-8) in 1983. The STS-8 mission launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on August 30, 1983. That day Guion Bluford became the first African American person in space. During the mission, the crew deployed a satellite, tested a robotic arm and performed various other scientific experiments in space. Bluford participated in three other space missions. The details are in the following table: Guion Bluford Space Missions DateMissionRoleAugust 30, 1983STS-8Mission Specialist 1October 30, 1985STS-61-AMission Specialist 3. Red TeamApril 28, 1991STS-39Mission Specialist 3December 2, 1992STS-53Mission Specialist 1 Between all the four missions, Guion was in space for more than 688 hours. After retiring from NASA in 1993, Guion joined various private companies in the aerospace industry where he still worked closely with NASA as a consultant and support provider. In 2002 he became the president of Aerospace Technology, a consulting firm based in Cleveland, Ohio that does research, development, and application of aerospace technologies. Bluford still works there to this day. Beyond his career, Guion also has many hobbies like scuba diving, playing golf and reading a lot of books. On being the first African American in space In an interview with NASA on the 35th anniversary of his first flight into space, Guion says he feels proud to have opened the door for other African Americans to fly to space, however, he was a bit reluctant at first as he is a private person who doesn’t enjoy the attention from the media. In an interview with the Washington Post in 1983 a few days before the launch of his first space flight, he said the following: “It might be a bad thing to be first if you stop and think about it, it might be better to be second or third because then you can enjoy it and disappear–return to the society you came out of without someone always poking you in the side and saying you were first.” Guion Bluford Accomplishments Photo: NASA Bluford had a very accomplished career during his time NASA and the Air Force which earned him a lot of well-deserved awards, medals, and the public recognition. The following are some of the most relevant. Guion has two different masters degrees (aerospace engineering and business administration) and one Ph. D. (aerospace engineering)On 1978, Guion was chosen from more than 9,000 applicants for the astronaut program thanks to his excellent career recordOn 1966 Guion received his pilot wings in the U.S. Air ForceHe logged over 6,500 hours as a jet pilot and instructorOn August 30, 1983, Guion became the first African American to fly to spaceIn 2002 he became president of the aerospace firm Aerospace TechnologyDuring his time in the Air Force, Bluford earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Commendation Medal, three Outstanding Unit Awards, the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Campaign Medal and ten Air Force Medals.During his time at NASA, he was awarded the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, NASA Exceptional Service Medal, four NASA Group Achievement Awards and four NASA Space Flight Medals, one for each of the space missions he participated in. Guion has been inducted to the International Space Hall of Fame and the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame Guion Bluford Quotes While Guion isn’t really a media personality and doesn’t give many interviews, he has said some great quotes in his lifetime that are worth remembering. Here are some of our favorites. “I felt an awesome responsibility, and I took the responsibility very seriously, of being a role model and opening another door to black Americans, but the important thing is not that I am black, but that I did a good job as a scientist and an astronaut. There will be black astronauts flying in later missions … and they, too, will be people who excel, not simply who are black … who can ably represent their people, their communities, their country.” “The sad thing about a shuttle mission is when you hit the point in your checklist when it says ‘bring vehicle home.’” “I’ve come to appreciate the planet we live on. It’s a small ball in a large universe. It’s a very fragile ball but also very beautiful. You don’t recognize that until you see it from a little farther off.” Where to Learn More Author Laura Jeffrey wrote an in-depth biography of Guion Bluford. You can find it on Amazon. It’s a small 48 pages book written for children. In the following interview with APB Speakers, Bluford talks about his time at NASA, work ethic and the importance of STEM education. See how Guion Bluford is related to other HistoryMakers Donate Now Selected Video Oral History Segments Click Here To Explore The Archive Today! Interview Description (Finding Aids) Guion S. Bluford was a decorated Air Force pilot in Vietnam before joining NASA in the late 1970s. In 1983, he became the first African American to travel into space when he served as a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Challenger. Bluford completed three more NASA missions, compiling 688 hours in space by the time of his retirement in 1993.Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. was born on November 22, 1942, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The son of a mechanical engineer and a special education teacher, Bluford grew up in a household where academic success was encouraged. He enrolled at Pennsylvania State University as a member of the U.S. Air Force ROTC program and graduated in 1964 with a degree in aerospace engineering. Following his pilot training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona, Bluford flew 144 combat missions during the Vietnam War. He won several medals for his service, including the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. After the war, Bluford enrolled at the Air Force Institute of Technology, where he received both a master's degree and a PhD in aerospace engineering. During this time, he also became a staff development engineer and branch chief of the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.Of some 10,000 applicants to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) space program, Bluford was one of 35 chosen to join the new space shuttle team in January 1978. He officially became a NASA astronaut in August 1979. Bluford made history on August 30, 1983, when he became the first African American to experience space travel. Bluford was a specialist for mission STS-8 aboard the space shuttle Challenger, which took off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for its first night launch. Over the course of 98 Earth orbits in 145 hours, Bluford and the crew operated a Canadian-built robot arm and conducted several biophysiological experiments. The mission ended on September 5, 1983, when the spacecraft touched down at Edwards Air Force Base in California in a night landing, another first for Challenger. Two years later, on October 30, 1985, Bluford made his second trip to space as a specialist for mission STS 61-A aboard Challenger. He was among NASA's largest crew to date for the first dedicated Spacelab mission directed by the German Aerospace Research Establishment (DFVLR). After completing 111 Earth orbits in 169 hours, Challenger landed at Edwards Air Force Base on November 6, 1985. Following the tragic Challenger explosion in January 1986, Bluford returned to the classroom to receive a master's in business administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, in 1987. However, he was determined to help the NASA space program get back on course. Despite nearly being grounded due to a herniated disc, he was back for mission STS-39 aboard the orbiter Discovery. After taking off on April 28, 1991, the crew conducted experiments for the U.S. Department of Defense, completing 134 orbits in 199 hours before landing on May 6, 1991. Bluford made one final trip to space on December 2, 1992, as one of five crew members of mission STS-53 aboard Discovery. Carrying a classified payload for the Department of Defense, the crew logged 115 orbits in 175 hours, returning safely on December 9, 1992. Having compiled a total of 688 hours in space, the distinguished astronaut retired from both NASA and the Air Force in 1993.Bluford joined NYMA Inc. as vice president/general manager of its engineering services division in 1993. He has since served in leadership roles for Federal Data Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation and Aerospace Technologies Group. Bluford was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame in 1997, and the United States Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2010. Married to wife Linda since 1964, he has two children, Guion III and James. Air Force, Air Force Institute of Technology, Challenger; Coalition for Space Exploration, International Space Hall of Fame, Logicon Operations and Services, NASA, Orbiter Discovery, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award, Philadelphia, University of Houston Guion S. Bluford Jr. was born in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1942. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from The Pennsylvania State University in 1964. Bluford went on to receive two more master's degrees and a doctoral degree. In 1979, Bluford became a NASA astronaut. He was the first African American to go into space, and he traveled to space four times. Bluford has received more than 50 awards, including The Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award, and he was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame. Guion Bluford Jr. was born in 1942 in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bluford's father was a mechanical engineer, and his mother was a special education teacher. His parents always taught him and his two brothers to work hard and to reach for their goals. Even as a young child, Bluford liked to build model airplanes and put things together. His family and friends call him "Guy" because his first name is pronounced "Guy-on." In his early years, he participated in Boy Scouts and ended up becoming an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Overbrook Senior High School in 1960. The school counselors told him that he was not college material and that he should think about going to a technical school. Bluford went on to receive a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from The Pennsylvania State University in 1964. He married his wife, Linda Tull, during his senior year at Penn State. His wife became an accountant, and later on, they had two sons, Guion III and James. Bluford was also an Air Force ROTC graduate from Penn State. After Bluford graduated, he went off to pilot training, and he received his pilot's wings in 1966. Bluford flew 144 combat missions as a fighter pilot in the Air Force. After Bluford served two years of active duty in the Air Force, he continued to move forward and pursue his goals. Bluford accomplished many things before he even got involved in NASA. In 1967, Bluford began working as a flight instructor at the Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. He continued climbing the ladder, and by 1971, he was the executive support officer to the deputy commander of operations and school secretary for the Flying Training Wing. After graduating from the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Bluford was assigned to the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. It was here that he researched, wrote, and presented scientific papers on computational fluid dynamics. In 1974, Bluford received a master's degree with a distinction in aerospace engineering from the AFIT. In 1978, he also received a doctor of philosophy in aerospace engineering degree with a minor in laser physics from the AFIT. The title of Bluford's dissertation was, "A numerical solution of supersonic and hypersonic viscous flow fields around thin planar delta wings." After Bluford logged more than 5,200 hours of jet flight time, it was time for him to reach even higher. Bluford's astronaut career began when he was picked to be one of the 35 individuals to become space shuttle astronauts. This is significant because 10,000 other people applied to the program, but only 35 people were accepted. On August 30, 1983, Bluford became the first African American to go into space. At the moment the countdown reached zero and the shuttle lifted off the ground, Bluford was on his way to live out his dream. During Bluford's career with NASA, he went to space four times. He was aboard the space shuttle Challenger for his first trip to space. This was the first mission to have a night launch and a night landing. On his first trip to space, Bluford was in charge of a variety of different experiments, and he helped to launch a communications and weather satellite for India. In 1985, Bluford went on his second space mission in the Challenger. Seven other crew members joined Bluford in this flight, making it the largest crew to fly into space. In 1986, Bluford was the representative chosen to return the Challenger flag to Boy Scout Troop 514 of Monument, Colorado. The Challenger flag has been honored at other ceremonies, including the Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City. Between flights, Bluford also got a master's degree in business administration from the University of Houston in 1987. Bluford made his third trip to space in 1991. This time, he went in the Orbiter Discovery. His fourth and final trip to space was in 1992. Bluford was living his dream as an astronaut and he said, "The job is so fantastic, you don't need a hobby. The hobby is going to work." Bluford completed 518 orbits of the Earth, and he logged more than 688 hours in space. Bluford has been involved in a wide variety of professional associations, such as the Coalition for Space Exploration. Bluford has received more than fifty special honors. In 1983, Bluford received The Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award. He received this for his outstanding achievement as an astronaut, an officer, and a scholar. A former aerospace engineering student at Penn State said, "I look at him as a role model for the future." In 1993, Bluford retired from NASA and the U.S Air Force. Five years later, he was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame. After retiring from NASA, Bluford went on to become the vice president of microgravity R & D and Operations for Logicon Operations and Services, which is an information technology and engineering services company of Northrop Grumman, headquartered in Herndon, VA. Also, he continued to hold some responsibilities with NASA. Bluford became a role model for his two boys, who both were science majors in college. He says this about his boys: "I want them to be happy. That's what is most important." He also paved the way for minority students who have the dream to become astronauts and go into space. Astronaut Guion Bluford flew in four Space Shuttle missions.

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