



CAPTAIN WENDY LAWRENCE (USN, RET)

Captain Wendy Lawrence is a retired naval aviator and NASA astronaut. As a helicopter pilot, she made several deployments to the North Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Kenya, making over 800 shipboard landings. She graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in ocean engineering. After earning a master's degree in ocean engineering from MIT and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), she served at the Naval Academy, teaching physics and leadership along with coaching the novice women's crew team.

Captain Lawrence was selected as an astronaut in 1992 and worked at NASA for 14 years. A veteran of four shuttle missions (STS-67, STS-86, STS-91 and STS-114), she has logged over 50 days in space. Her last flight was the first Shuttle "Return to Flight" mission following the loss of the orbiter *Columbia* and her crew. This flight evaluated new procedures for inspection and repair of the shuttle orbiter's thermal protection system.

Currently, she works part-time at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex and Space Camp, informing the public about NASA's spaceflight programs and participating in STEM education programs.

Captain Lawrence is the first female recipient of the Naval Academy Alumni Association's Distinguished Graduate Award. She has also received the National Navy League's Captain Winifred Quick Collins Award for inspirational leadership and the Puget Sound Engineering Council's Kenneth W. Porter Award for contributions to K-12 engineering education.