

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Ronnie Walter Cunningham

ORAL HISTORY: 24 May 1999

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BA in Physics, University of California at Los Angeles, 1960

MA in Physics, University of California at Los Angeles, 1961

Completed work at the University of California at Los Angeles on doctorate in Physics except dissertation

Advanced Management Program, Harvard Graduate School of Business, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1974

MILITARY EXPERIENCE:

U.S. Navy 1951-1953

U.S. Marine Corps 1953-1956

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve 1956-1975 (retired)

PRE-NASA CAREER:

Research Assistant, Planning Research Corporation, Westwood California, 1959-1960

Physicist, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California (1960-1964)

NASA CAREER:

Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas

Astronaut (1963-1969)

Chief, Flight Crew Directorate, Skylab Branch (1969-1971)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Director, University Savings Association, Houston, Texas

Vice President, Century Development (1971-1974)

President, Hydrotech Development Company, Houston, Texas (1974-1976)

Senior Vice President, 3D International, Houston, Texas (1976-1979)

Founder, The Capital Group, Houston, Texas (1979-1986)

Managing Partner, Genesis Fund, Houston, Texas (1986-Present)

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Managing General Partner, Consultant, Genesis Fund, Houston, Texas

Radio Talk Show Host, "Lift-off to Logic" KPRC-950 AM, Houston, Texas

MISSIONS:

Apollo 7 (AS-205)

- Crew: Commander Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Command Module Pilot Donn F. Eisele, Lunar Module Pilot R. Walter Cunningham
- Launched: 11 October 1968 at 11:02:45 A.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 10 days, 20 hours, 8 minutes, 58 seconds
- Landed: 22 October at 7:11:43 A.M. EST, Atlantic Ocean
- Mission Highlights: First manned flight of the Apollo program. Demonstrate performance of Command And Service Modules, crew, and mission support

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Associate Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Fellow, American Astronautical Society
- Member, Society of Experimental Test Pilots
- Member, American Geophysical Union
- Member, Explorers Club
- Member, Space Explorers – USA
- Sigma Pi Sigma
- Sigma Xi
- Member, Steering Committee of the Aviation Subcommittee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Houston Revolution Bicentennial Commission

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- NASA Exceptional Service Medal and Navy Astronaut Wings, 1968
- Co-recipient of the AIAA 1969 Haley Astronautics Award, 1969
- UCLA Alumni Professional Achievement Award, 1969
- National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Special Trustee Award, 1969
- American Legion Medal of Valor, 1975
- Outstanding American Award of the American Conservative Union, 1975
- Judge Roles Award for Enterprise, 1984

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Walter Cunningham, "Importance of the Observation That Stars Don't Twinkle Outside the Earth's Atmosphere," W.L.M. Libby.

Cunningham, Walter. All American Boys: The Human Side of the Space Program. New York: Macmillan, 1977.

"Apollo 13 'Houston, we've got a problem,'" Introduction by astronaut Walter Cunningham. *The American Space Odyssey*; v. 8. Video Recording, TaLas Enterprises, Houston, Texas, 1975, 1994.

“Gemini VIII this is Houston Flight,” Introduction by astronaut Walter Cunningham. The American Space Odyssey; v. 5. Video Recording, TaLas Enterprises, Houston, Texas, 1975, 1994.

“The Time of Apollo,” Introduction by astronaut Walter Cunningham. The American Space Odyssey; v. 14. Video Recording, TaLas Enterprises, Houston, Texas, 1975, 1994.

“Who's out there?” Introduction by astronaut Walter Cunningham. The American Space Odyssey; v. 18. Video Recording, TaLas Enterprises, Houston, Texas, 1975, 1994.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

American Men & Women of Science: A Biographical Directory of Today's Leaders in Physical, Biological and Related Sciences. 19th Edition through 20th Edition. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1994-1998, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

The Blue Book: Leaders of the English-speaking World. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1976, Reprint. Gale Research Detroit, 1979, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

Contemporary Authors: A Bio-bibliographical Guide to Current Writers in Fiction, General Nonfiction, Poetry, Journalism, Drama, Motion Pictures, Television, and Other Fields. Vol. 103. Detroit, Gale Research, 1982, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

The International Who's Who. 38th through 41st Edition. London: Europa Publications, 1974-1977, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

Manned Spacecraft Center News (June 1971), “R. Walter Cunningham Retires,” Public Affairs Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (July 1970), R. Walter Cunningham, Public Affairs Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Who's Who in America. 38th Edition through 51st Edition New Providence, NJ: Marquis Who's Who, 1976-1999, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

Who's Who in Science and Engineering. 2nd and 3rd Edition. New Providence, NJ: Marquis Who's Who, 1995-1996, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

Who's Who in the South and Southwest. 24th and 25th Edition. Wilmette, IL: Marquis Who's Who, 1995-1997, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

Who's Who in the World. 2nd through 4th Edition. Chicago, IL: Wilmette Who's Who, 1973-1978, s.v. “Cunningham, R. Walter.”

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