



Ohio in Space

Ohioans appear often in the history of America's aviation and aerospace development. These contributions are shown in the exhibits of the Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum, located in Wapakoneta, Ohio. The galleries showcase artifacts beginning with early aviation achievements, such as those of Orville and Wilbur Wright. Other important contributors to Ohio's space history include Neil Armstrong, John Glenn and Judith Resnick.



Neil Armstrong's space suit as it is displayed in the Neil Armstrong Museum Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Courtesy of the Mount Vernon News

Neil Armstrong was born on August 5, 1930 in Wapakoneta. Armstrong has flown over 200 different models of aircraft. Gliders, jets, helicopters and rockets are just a few of the aircraft he has piloted. On March 16, 1966, Armstrong served as a command pilot for the Gemini 8 mission, and was the first to successfully dock two vehicles in space. On July 20, 1969, as the commander of Apollo 11, he was the first man to land a spacecraft on the moon, and the first person to walk on the moon.

John Glenn was born in Cambridge, Ohio on July 11, 1921. In 1957, he set a speed record by flying from Los Angeles to New York in three hours and 23 minutes. In 1959 NASA chose Glenn as one of the first seven astronauts to participate in the United States Space Program. On February 20, 1962, he became the first American to orbit the earth. Glenn made history again at the age of 77, when he became the oldest human to travel in space on October 29, 1998.

Judith Resnick was born April 5, 1949 in Akron, Ohio. She became an astronaut in January 1978, and worked on many projects including the Remote Manipulator System and training techniques. In her career, she logged 144 hours and 57 minutes in space. Resnick died on January 28, 1986 when the space shuttle Challenger, on which she was a crew member, exploded shortly after it launched.

These are just a few of the many contributions Ohioans have made to space exploration.

