

2014 Gather of Eagles Distinguished Panel Member

Pamela Ann Melroy, Colonel, USAF (Retired)
NASA Astronaut (Former)
Class 91B

Pam Melroy is a retired Air Force test pilot and former NASA astronaut and Space Shuttle commander. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics and Astronomy from Wellesley College in 1983 and a Master of Science degree in Earth and Planetary Sciences from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1984.

Colonel Melroy was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program in 1983. After completing a Master's degree, she attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas, and graduated in 1985. She flew the KC-10 for six years at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana, as a co-pilot, aircraft commander and instructor pilot. Colonel Melroy is a veteran of Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, with more than 200 combat and combat support hours. In June 1991, she attended the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, California. Upon her graduation, she was assigned to the C-17 Combined Test Force, where she served as a test pilot until her selection for the Astronaut Program. She has logged more than 6,000 hours flight time in more than 50 different aircraft.

Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in December 1994, Colonel Melroy reported to the Johnson Space Center, Texas, in March 1995. She flew three missions in space: as Space Shuttle pilot during STS-92 in 2000 and STS-112 in 2002, and as Space Shuttle Commander during STS-120 in 2007. All three missions were assembly missions to build the International Space Station. She is one of only two women to command the Space Shuttle. While an astronaut, she held a variety of positions to include performing astronaut support duties for launch and landing and Capsule Communicator (CAPCOM) duties in mission control. Colonel Melroy served on the Columbia Reconstruction Team as the lead for the crew module and served as Deputy Project Manager for the Columbia Crew Survival Investigation Team. In her final position, she served as Branch Chief for the Orion branch of the Astronaut Office. She has logged more than 924 hours (more than 38 days) in space. Colonel Melroy retired from the Air Force in 2007, and left NASA in August 2009. After NASA, she served as Deputy Program manager for the Lockheed Martin Orion Space Exploration Initiatives program and as Director of Field Operations and acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration. She currently serves as Deputy Director, Tactical Technology Office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

She is a member of the Wellesley College Board of Trustees, the Air Force Museum Foundation Board of Managers, the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, the Association of Space Explorers and The Ninety-Nines, Inc.

