



Dr. Patricia "Patty" Hilliard Robertson

S.S. Patricia "Patty" Hilliard Robertson

NG-20 Cargo Delivery Mission to the International Space Station

Northrop Grumman is proud to name the NG-20 Cygnus spacecraft in honor of astronaut Dr. Patricia "Patty" Hilliard Robertson. It is the company's tradition to name each Cygnus spacecraft after an individual who has made significant contributions to human spaceflight. Dr. Robertson was selected in honor of her memory as a scheduled crew member for the ISS Expedition 2 Mission in 2002, before her untimely death.

Dr. Robertson was born in 1963 in Indiana, Pennsylvania. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1985 and 1989, respectively.

During medical school, Dr. Robertson completed a three-year residency in Family Medicine in 1992 and was certified by the American Board of Family Practice in the same year. In 1997, she completed a two-year Space Medicine fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch and NASA Johnson Space Center.

Dr. Robertson was a multiengine rated flight instructor and avid aerobatic pilot. In her free time, she enjoyed flight instructing, aerobatics, and flying with her husband. She accumulated over 1,500 hours of flight time.

Dr. Robertson was selected to become an astronaut in 1998 as part of NASA Group 17. She was scheduled to fly to the International Space Station in 2002, but tragically lost her life after succumbing to injuries sustained during a private plane crash outside Houston, Texas in 2001. Members of Dr. Robertson's astronaut class brought a photograph of her with them on their mission to the ISS, along with her NASA nametag, as a tribute to their would-have-been crewmate.

One of Dr. Robertson's astronaut classmates, Tracy Caldwell-Dyson is scheduled to travel to the ISS while NG-20's Cygnus spacecraft is docked at the station.

Northrop Grumman is honored to name its next Cygnus spacecraft in celebration of the life and legacy of astronaut Dr. Patty Robertson.