



Laurel Clark

S.S. Laurel Clark

NG-19 Cargo Delivery Mission to the International Space Station

Northrop Grumman is proud to name the NG-19 Cygnus spacecraft in honor of astronaut Dr. Laurel Clark. It is the company's tradition to name each Cygnus spacecraft after an individual who has made great contributions to human spaceflight. Dr. Clark was selected in honor of her memory as a crew member aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia for STS-107.

Dr. Clark was born in Iowa in 1961, but considered Racine, Wisconsin to be her hometown. She received a bachelor's degree in zoology and a medical degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1979 and 1987, respectively.

During medical school, Dr. Clark completed active duty training with the Diving Medicine Department at the U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit. She completed her postgraduate medical education in pediatrics at the National Naval Medical Center in 1988, and later completed diving medical officer training. During her military career, Dr. Clark worked as a Radiation Health Officer, Undersea Medical Officer, Naval Submarine Medical Officer, Diving Medical Officer and Naval Flight Surgeon, rising to the rank of captain.

Dr. Clark was selected to become an astronaut in 1996 as part of NASA Group 16. Launching in January 2003, STS-107 was her first and only flight, logging 15 days, 22 hours and 21 minutes in space. The crew worked 24 hours a day in alternating shifts during this mission, and successfully conducted 80 experiments. Dr. Clark's bioscience experiments included gardening in space. She enjoyed taking photos of the Earth during her free time, and in an email to family said, "whenever I do get to look out, it is glorious."

On February 1, 2003, Dr. Clark and the rest of the crew aboard the Columbia tragically lost their lives when the shuttle did not survive reentry into Earth's atmosphere. The entire crew was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush in 2004, approximately one year after the accident.

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