

S.S. John Glenn

OA-7 Cargo Delivery Mission to the International Space Station



U.S. Senator John Glenn

Orbital ATK is proud and honored to name the OA-7 Cygnus cargo delivery spacecraft after former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn. Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth, was a lifelong pioneer of human spaceflight. His space shuttle mission, STS-95, studied the effects of space flight on the aging process, an experiment that is still conducted on the International Space Station.

John Herschel Glenn Jr. was born in Cambridge, Ohio, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio. Muskingum College is among the nine institutions that would go on to award him honorary doctoral degrees. In March 1942, Glenn entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and was commissioned in the Marine Corps in 1943.

Glenn attended Test Pilot School at the Naval Air Test Center in Patuxent River, Maryland, and was a project officer on a number of aircraft. In July 1957, he set a transcontinental speed record by traveling from Los Angeles to New York in 3 hours and 23 minutes, the first transcontinental flight to average supersonic speed. During his military career, Glenn logged nearly 9,000 hours of flying time, including 59 combat missions in World War II.

Glenn was selected as a Mercury astronaut in April 1959 and made his historic flight orbiting the planet on Friendship 7 on February 20, 1962. His flight helped to define America's position in the space race with the Soviet Union. Glenn resigned as an astronaut in 1964 and won his Senate seat for Ohio in 1974, serving for 24 years.

Glenn passed away on December 8, 2016 and is survived by his wife of 73 years, Annie, and their children, John and Carolyn.

Glenn paved the way for America's space program, from moon missions, to the space shuttle and the International Space Station. His commitment to America's human space flight program and his distinguished military and political career make him an ideal honoree for the OA-7 Mission.