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Neil Armstrong

**Basic Information**

Neil A. Armstrong was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio and is known for being the first man who walked on the moon. Neil was born on August 5, 1930, and started his NASA career in Ohio. Neil has set incredible remarks throughout his life and even after his death, his works are still a matter of debate among different scientists. He is primarily famous for being the person to set foot on the moon. Neil died on August 25, 2012, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Early Life And Career**

Stephen Koenig Armstrong who used to be a state auditor along with his wife Viola Louise Engel gave birth to three children. Neil was the eldest among the three of them. The passion of Neil for flight and aviation was kindled when at the very early age of 6, he took his first airplane ride. Neil used to be active in the Boy Scouts of America which later on made him earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. When he turned 16, Neil was seen to become a licensed pilot and a naval air cadet in the year 1947.

When it comes to the history of America, Neil has undoubtedly a great hand, or we say participation when it comes to the Korean War. Due to the serving in Korean War in 1950, the studies of Neil in aeronautical engineering were interrupted at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. During the Korean War, Neil was awarded three Air Medals and was shot down once. In the year 1955, Neil’s degree was completed which eventually lead him to become a civilian pilot for NACA which in other words is known as National Aeronautics and Space Administration. After his services in NACA, Neil moved the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or simply known as NASA. Neil along with the second group of astronauts joined the space program in 1962.

**Moon Landing**

Neil along with Michael Collings and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. blasted off towards the moon on July 16, 1969. Right after four days, the Eagle lunar landing module which Armstrong guided manually was observed to be touched down on a plain near the southwestern edge of the sea of Tranquility. The most awaited moment in the history of the science was seen when Armstrong stepped onto the dusty surface of the moon from the Eagle. That moment is considered to be one of the most historical moments in the history of mankind as the first ever person was able to step into the moon. Aldrin and Armstrong left the module for more than two hours and then followed by deploying scientific instruments. As per their mission, and the instructions, Armstrong and Aldrin took a number of photographs and collected surface samples from the moon.

It was July 21, right after spending more than 21 hours on the Moon, Armstrong and Aldrin along with Collins lifted off and begin the voyage back to Earth. The three astronauts were seen spending 18 days in quarantine after splashdown in the Pacific on July 24 (Rowe et al., 2017). The reason for their time in quarantine was for guarding against the possible contamination by lunar microbes (Rowe, 2016).

**Later Career**

After giving so much of his efforts and dedication while working in NASA, Armstrong finally resigned in the year 1971. One thing that must be taken into consideration is the fact that Armstrong tried to shy away from being a public figure after Apollo 11. He was seen confining himself to professional and academic endeavors. Between the years of 1971 and 1979, Armstrong served himself as the professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. The purpose for becoming a teacher himself was to set an example for others and teach the young generation in such a manner that would result for them to have a bright future in the same field in which Armstrong has his name on the top.

It was the year 1979 which lead the Armstrong to change his mindset, and he eventually started to serve as a director or chairman for a number of companies. The role of Armstrong in those companies is undoubtedly remarkable. Armstrong was seen to become the active part of the Computing Technologies for Aviation between the years of 1982 and 1992. Armstrong also dedicated his work in EDO Corporation formerly known as the AIL Systems. The organization was considered to the maker of electronic equipment for the military. Armstrong served there from 1977 until his retirement in the year 2002.

Even after the retirement, Armstrong still used to believe in keeping himself busy. Apart from his work in several organizations, he was seen serving on the National Commission on Space or simply known as NCOS. The Presidential Medal of Freedom was awarded to Armstrong in the year 1969. In 1978, he was honored to have the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Later on, Armstrong named the Congressional Gold Medal to himself in 2009.

**Legacy**

The legacy of Neil Armstrong is something that is never-ending. Neil Armstrong has become the subject for the debates among different group of people due to his incredible achievements. No one had ever imagined that a human would be able to reach the moon. There is no doubt that stepping into the moon was simply a dream which ultimately became a reality. The craze for Neil Armstrong is so much in young generation that A Neil Armstrong biography was released in the year 2018. The plot of the movie is based on the life of Neil A. Armstrong which is undoubtedly a tribute to such a great legend (Matthews, 2018).

Work Cited

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