Prairie View A&M University
NASA Center for Applied Radiation Research (CARR)

Black Engineers’ Contributions to the Space Program

Dr. Richard Wilkins
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The Tuskegee Airmen In World War II

- First black combat pilots in the world
- Flew over 15,000 missions
- Destroyed 251 enemy planes
- Won 850 medals
Dr. Robert Shurney, Aerospace Engineer

- Designed tools for astronauts.
- Designed utensils and containers to help astronauts eat.
- Designed the tires for the moon buggy.
Dr. Guion “Guy” S. Bluford, Jr.
- First African-American in space
- Aerospace Engineer
- High school counselor said he should be a carpenter.

Dr. Mae C. Jemison
- First African-American woman in space
- Chemical Engineer
- Medical Doctor
The First Three African-American Astronauts

Dr. Ronald McNair,
- Physicist

Colonel Frederick Gregory,
- First African-American graduate of Air Force Academy.
- Associate Administrator of NASA.

Dr. Guy Bluford
Dr. Bernard Harris was the first African-American to walk in space.

Future astronauts at Space Center, Houston.
- Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering.
- Flight systems engineer for the **Spirit** and **Opportunity** Mars Rovers.
- Works on moving the rovers around the surface of Mars.
Dr. Ayanna Howard

- Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering.
- Works on future "smart" rovers to Mars and other planets.
- Works on artificial intelligence and machine vision.