Guion S. Bluford Encyclopedia Article

Guion S. Bluford

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1942-

American astronaut who was the first African American in space. Bluford graduated from Pennsylvania State University and then served as a U.S. Air Force pilot in Vietnam. He earned an aerospace engineering doctorate from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and served as a mission specialist on a 1983 space shuttle flight. Two years later, he conducted scientific experiments aboard *Spacelab.* He flew twice again in the 1990s, deploying military and commercial satellites. After retiring from NASA, Bluford became an engineering executive.