

# Yvonne Darlene Cagle, M.D.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut  
Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired)

Even as a young child, Dr. Yvonne Darlene Cagle seemed destined to fly. At six years old, she took her first plane ride from New York to Japan. When told she could sit anywhere on the plane, she quickly sat in the pilot's chair.

"When the crew said I had to move, I was inconsolable. Little did I know it wouldn't be the last time I sat there," said Cagle.

In 1986, after graduating from medical school, she began active duty with the Air Force. It seemed natural to be in flight medicine, as she had dreamed of serving others and was fascinated by aviation. Working as a flight surgeon, she was able to serve many different cultures while flying all types of aircraft. Her experience gave her a new perspective.

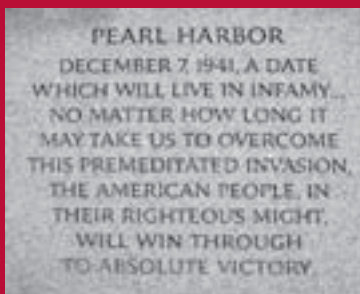
"I wanted to understand human physiology better so I could help more people. I realized that the human body and universe showed many similarities. By studying space, I would have an enhanced knowledge of life on earth," said Cagle.

In her quest to better understand space, Cagle joined NASA. She was the first and still is the only Air Force flight surgeon to become an astronaut. In this role, she has been able to work on research projects such as space adaptation syndrome; reusable energy; and, most recently, commercial reusable suborbital research that will help NASA develop technologies to more efficiently study space.

"There is a long legacy of individuals who provide dedicated service to our country; and I am proud that through my work, I can be one of them," said Cagle.



**1937**  
William H. Hastie, advocate for the fair treatment and equality of African American troops in WWII, is confirmed as the first African American federal judge.



**1941**  
Navy steward Dorie Miller officially shoots down two Japanese planes during an attack on Pearl Harbor.

**1948**  
Nancy C. Leftenant is the first African American woman to become a member of the regular Army Nurse Corps.

# APRIL 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1950: Blood research pioneer Charles R. Drew dies.	2 1984: Georgetown coach John Thompson becomes first African American coach to win the NCAA basketball tournament. <b>Good Friday</b>	3 1826: Poet-oralor James Madison Bell, author of the Emancipation Day poem "The Day and the War," born.
4 1968: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. <b>Easter</b>	5 1951: Washington, D.C., Municipal Court of Appeals outlaws segregation in restaurants.	6 1909: Matthew A. Henson reaches North Pole, 45 minutes before Robert E. Peary.	7 1959: Lorraine Hansberry becomes first black playwright to win New York Drama Critics Award (for <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> ).	8 1974: Atlanta Braves slugger Hank Aaron hits 715th career home run, surpassing Babe Ruth as the game's all-time home-run leader.	9 1898: Paul Robeson, actor, singer, activist, born.	10 1943: Arthur Ashe, Jr., first black to win the U.S. Open and men's singles title at Wimbledon, born.
11 1899: Percy Julian, developer of physostigmine and synthetic cortisone, born.	12 1983: Harold Washington becomes first African American elected mayor of Chicago.	13 1997: Tiger Woods wins Masters Golf Tournament.	14 1775: First abolitionist society in U.S. founded in Philadelphia.	15 1964: Sidney Poitier becomes first black to win Academy Award for Best Actor for <i>Lilies of the Field</i> .	16 1862: Slavery abolished in the District of Columbia.	17 1983: Alice Walker wins Pulitzer Prize for fiction for <i>The Color Purple</i> .
18 1995: Margo Jefferson receives Pulitzer Prize for criticism.	19 1972: Stationed in Germany, Maj. Gen. Frederic E. Davidson becomes first African American to lead an Army division.	20 1894: Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneering food chemist, born.	21 1966: Pfc. Milton L. Olive III awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor for valor in Vietnam. <b>Administrative Professionals Day</b>	22 1922: Jazz bassist and composer Charles Mingus born.	23 1856: Granville T. Woods, inventor of the steam boiler and automobile air brakes, born.	24 1944: United Negro College Fund incorporated.
25 1918: Ella Fitzgerald, "First Lady of Song," born.	26 1888: Sarah Boone patents ironing board.	27 1968: Dr. Vincent Porter becomes first black certified in plastic surgery.	28 2009: Sojourner Truth, former slave turned abolitionist, becomes first African American woman to have a memorial in the U.S. Capitol.	29 1899: Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, jazz musician and composer, born.	30 1952: Dr. Louis T. Wright honored by American Cancer Society for his contributions to cancer research.	