

Life Facts

Born: July 1, 1961

Died: Feb. 1, 2003
during re-entry
of Space
Shuttle
Columbia

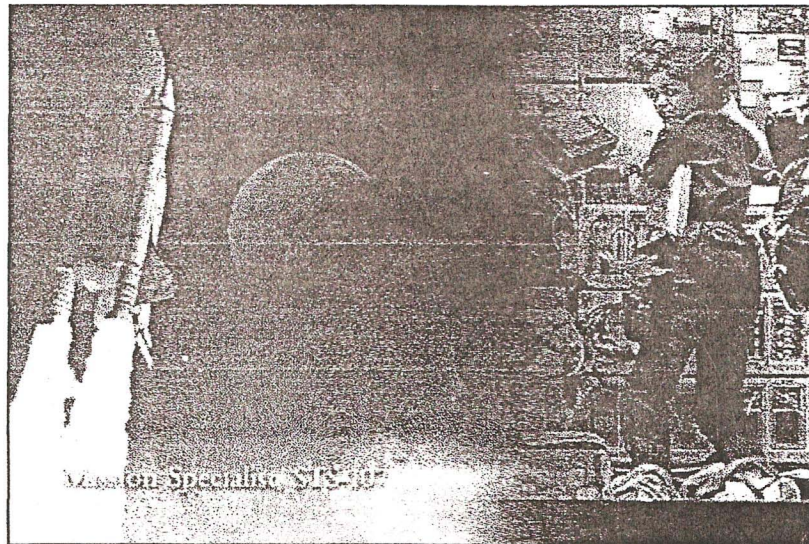
Space Agency: NASA

Astronaut Class: 1995

Missions: STS-87
STS-107

Time in Space: 31 days,
14 hours,
54 minutes

Education: 1982, B.S.,
Punjab
Engineering
College.
1984, M.S.,
University of
Texas-
Arlington.
1988, Ph.D.,
University of
Colorado.



Images



Visit the Gallery to see photos of Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla and the STS-107 crew.

Videos

STS-107 Tribute

QuickTime

Media Player - 28K / 56K

Real Video - 28K / 56K

Preflight Profile

QuickTime

Media Player - 28K / 56K

Real Video - 28K / 56K

Flight Day 11

Kalpana Chawla's path to become an astronaut began in Karnal, India.

"None of our astronauts traveled a longer path to space than Kalpana Chawla," U.S. President George W. Bush said. "She left India as a student but she would see the nation of her birth, all of it, from hundreds of miles above."

Chawla knew that she wanted to be an aerospace engineer at an early age. She was influenced by watching the planes from the local flying clubs and by her father. ←

“ She left India as a student, but she would see the nation of her birth, all of it, from hundreds of miles above. ”

- President George W. Bush

"Every once in a while," Chawla said, "we'd ask my dad if we could get a ride in one of these planes. And, he did take us to the flying club and get us a ride in the Pushpak and a glider that the flying club had." ←