



Dr. Mae C Jemison
born Oct 17, 1956 in Decatur, AL

A popular saying is to “Shoot for the moon and even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars”. This statement became reality for Mae Carol Jemison on September 12, 1992.

Jemison was selected, out of more than 2000 applicants, to join the NASA Endeavour STS-47 crew as Mission Specialist 4. Her role was designated as Science Mission Specialist; a new astronaut role being tested by NASA to focus on scientific experiments. Mae Jemison was the first African American woman to travel to space. Her missions gave her the opportunity to be among the stars for eight days.

Mae grew up in Chicago, IL. At an early age she aspired to be like Lieutenant Uhura, an African American actress on the Star Trek USS Enterprise spaceship. Her ambitious spirit led her to many great opportunities such as:

- Attending and graduating from Stanford University where she double major in Chemical Engineering and African and African American studies,
- Earned a medical degree from Cornell Medical School,
- Worked at a Cambodian refugee camp,
- Joined the Peace Corps in 1983 and served as a Medical Officer in Sierra Leone and Liberia,
- Worked for the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and
- Operated her own medical practice in Los Angeles, CA

Throughout her life she took chances, stretched beyond her comfort zone, and she excelled. After retiring from NASA, Jemison accepted a teaching fellowship at Dartmouth University. She has authored “Find Where the Wind Goes”. She has also established the Jemison Group, a company that seeks to research, develop and market advanced technologies. Dr. Mae C Jemison is now 64 years old.

Fun fact about Dr. Mae C. Jemison: She is featured as a backup ballet dancer in West Side Story.

Written by Latosha Dixon