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An Amazing Opportunity

Personal account of attending an early space shuttle launch.

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They decided to let staff assistants go to launches. They didn't used to do that, it was all professional staff. So they said, "We're going to open it up, and we're going to let you draw names." I got one and the part-time person got the other one, and you could see the look on . . . "I don't believe it, the new kid gets it, and the part-time person." It was so awesome, though. We went down on a NASA plane. We left that morning, it was a day launch. And they had the stands, and the, it was incredible. You're just there with, you know, like American, God, and everything is good.

And the ground starts to rumble, and you can see the shuttle lifting off and you feel it before you see it. And it was just, you know, you're traveling, watching it travel up there, and it was . . . I've never experienced anything like that. It was amazing to see something and know there were people on there, and it was . . . then the crowd went nuts. And you had a lot of people that were lining the outside of the Kennedy facility, and there were fireworks going off, and people screaming and horns honking. It was a great, great thing. I came home, I was excited before, now I'm like, "I am so onboard with this committee, I can't stand it," which is what they wanted. They wanted to kind of include everybody in that same feeling of excitement.