

Senator Mark Kelly

U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame™ 2023 Inductee

Mark Kelly (Captain, USN, ret.) has served as a U.S. Navy combat pilot, a NASA astronaut, and is now serving as a U.S. Senator for Arizona. Kelly earned his bachelor's degree in marine engineering and nautical science from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and later a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

As a Navy pilot, he made multiple deployments aboard the aircraft carrier USS Midway and flew 39 combat missions in Operation Desert Storm. He has logged more than 5,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft and has over 375 carrier landings. Kelly retired from the Navy with the rank of Captain.

In 1996, he was selected as an astronaut in the same NASA class as his identical twin brother, Scott. Kelly's first of four trips into space were as pilot of STS-108 in December 2001, during which he helped deliver equipment, supplies and additional crew members to the ISS. He then served as pilot of STS-121 aboard Discovery, the second "Return to Flight" mission following the loss of Columbia in February 2003. STS-124 also aboard Discovery in May of 2008 was Kelly's first mission as commander. Kelly and his crew delivered the pressurized module for the Japanese Lab to the ISS.

He retired from NASA in 2011 after commanding space shuttle Endeavour on its final flight, STS-134, which delivered the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer to the ISS. Kelly has spent more than 50 days in space – traveling over 20 million miles.

As U.S. Senator for Arizona, he serves as chair of the Airland subcommittee on Senate Armed Services, which oversees the Army and Air Force planning, operations and programs. He also sits on the Environment and Public Works and the Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

Senator Kelly is the recipient of two Defense Superior Service Medals, Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and multiple Air Medals. He lives in Tucson with his wife, former Congresswoman, Gabby Giffords. Mark has two daughters, Claire, a graduate of Arizona State University, and Claudia who lives in Tucson and is a student at the University of Arizona and is the mother of Kelly's two-year-old granddaughter, Sage.