

Major General (Ret.) Roy D. Bridges, Jr.

U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame™ 2023 Inductee

Roy D. Bridges (Major General USAF, ret.) was selected as an astronaut in 1980. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and Purdue University where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering management and a master's degree in astronautics, respectively, Bridges has dedicated his career to the air and space industry.

As a pilot, test pilot and astronaut, he flew 4,460 hours in a variety of aircraft including the F-100, F-104, YA/A-10, A-37, OV-99 (space Shuttle Challenger), C-11, F-15, T-37, and T-38.

In July 1985, he piloted the space shuttle Challenger for the eight-day Spacelab 2 mission. The main mission objective for STS-51F was to verify performance of Spacelab systems, determine interface capability of orbiter, and measure the spacecraft environment. Experiments performed covered life sciences, plasma physics, astronomy, high-energy astrophysics, solar physics, atmospheric physics and technology research.

Bridges went on to serve as Center Director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center from 1997 to 2003, where he was responsible for NASA's Space Shuttle and International Space Station launch processing and operations as well as the acquisition and launch of NASA's expendable launch vehicle missions. Between 2003 and 2005, he served as the Center Director of NASA's Langley Research Center, where he directed aeronautical and space research programs before joining Northrop Grumman. Bridges retired from his position as Technology Services' Director responsible for Department of Energy business with Northrop Grumman in January 2019.

A retired U.S. Air Force Major General, Bridges has served at Wright-Patterson AFB OH as the Air Force Materiel Command Director of Requirements; Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base CA; Commander, Eastern Space and Missile Center, Patrick AFB FL; and Commander, 412th Test Wing, Edwards AFB CA.

Among the awards Bridges has received are the National Nuclear Security Administration's highest honor – the Administrator's Distinguished Service Gold Award – in 2017, as well as NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal, the Presidential Meritorious Executive Award, the Northrop Grumman Award for Excellence, and many military honors.