

Class of 1952

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From the time he was a small child, listening to his uncle's "sea stories," James Lovell had two dreams—to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and to fly. He got his chance to realize both dreams when he entered the Naval Academy Class of 1952.

As a midshipman, Jim earned a reputation for his academic skill, but modestly replied that he was just trying to keep his head above water. The *Lucky Bag* predicted that "as an officer, Jim's easy manner and will to make good should carry him far." It certainly did.

Following a tour as a naval aviator and test pilot, Jim was selected for the U.S. space program, joining the Gemini team of astronauts in 1962. At NASA, Jim's dream took flight. He filled backup roles for Gemini 4 and 9.

On his first mission, Gemini 7, Jim accomplished the first docking of two manned spacecraft, taking his passion for the Blue and Gold into space with him.

Next came the Apollo program. Jim served as command module pilot on Apollo 8—the very first voyage to the moon, becoming the first Naval officer to travel to the lunar body.

In 1970, as mission commander of Apollo 13, Jim was headed back to the moon when an onboard explosion crippled the spacecraft. For days the world held its breath as Jim and his crew defied the odds and brought Apollo 13 safely home.

For his courageous effort, Jim received the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.

After retiring from the Navy, Jim excelled in the corporate world, and founded his own company, Lovell Communications.

Jim lives in the Chicago area with his wife Marilyn. They have four children and 11 grandchildren.

Jim Lovell is a man whose dreams of flight led him to the Naval Academy and whose courage in space inspired the world.