

## Janice E. Voss: A Leading Woman In Science And Space

In Indiana history there are many women that can be deemed as great, admirable and inspiring. They have served our communities, states and countries well as they have fought for what they believed in, found cures for life threatening diseases or influenced world wide change. In the field of science, I admire Janice E. Voss the most because she showed this planet, and the others that linger out in space, what women can do. In her time as an astronaut, she was the twenty third woman in space and had been in space five times, sharing the record with a few other astronauts for American women. Ms. Voss also worked as the Science director of the Kepler Spacecraft, a spacecraft that searches for Earth like planets and stars.

Ms. Voss was born October 8th, 1956, in South Bend, Indiana, and got her bachelor degree in engineering at Purdue University. Her work in the field of aeronautics and astronomy has captured my admiration for both her and her work. She was known for her work as a mission engineer specialist astronaut, her work with biomedical experiments aboard the first commercially developed Spacehub module and creating the most digital topographic map of the Earth. In her 49 total days in space she traveled 18.8 million miles in 779 Earth Orbits. She is a holder of four NASA Space Flight Medals, worked in the Zonta Amelia Earhart Foundation, Howard Hughes Foundation and National Science Foundation. These programs and awards were only given and or offered to people of high intelligence and an extremely experienced, scientific background. There is no wonder to why she inspires others and myself.

At age 45, Janice E. Voss began her fight with breast cancer. But, even when she was ill, she did not stop her work. She was employed at the NASA Kepler Space Observatory and the Orbital Sciences Corporation. Tragically, Ms. Voss passed after a ten year long battle. But, her

hardwork and dedication was and never will be not forgotten. At Purdue University's Discovery Park, a full scale model of our solar system is standing proudly in loving memory of her.

I admire Ms. Voss for numerous reasons. She was determined, intelligent, incredibly hardworking and a leader for those who wish to partake in the field of astronomy and aeronautics. Her advancements in robotics and spacecrafts have paved the way for the future in exploring the vast and unknown mysteries of space. She fought a decade long battle, with a disease that claims the lives of many women all over the world, until her last breath. Not only that, but she has given women of all ages a constant reminder that we can and are able to do great things. Her memory will forever be remembered for all of those who look to the sky and gaze at the wonder and amazement that is space. As we celebrate National Women's month, let us remember the woman who made the stars shine a little brighter and remind us that women can truly do anything.

- Maddie Nagel