

S.S. Gene Cernan

OA-8 Cargo Delivery Mission to the International Space Station



Eugene "Gene" A. Cernan

Orbital ATK is proud to name the OA-8 Cygnus Cargo Delivery Spacecraft after former astronaut Eugene "Gene" Cernan. As the last human to step foot on the moon, Cernan set records for both lunar surface extravehicular activities and longest time in lunar orbit, paving the way for future human space exploration.

Eugene A. Cernan was born in Chicago, Illinois, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University and a Master of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He was also the recipient of multiple Honorary Doctorates throughout his career. Cernan spent more than 20 years in the United States Navy where he completed flight training and logged more than 5,000 hours flying time. He retired a United States Navy Captain.

Cernan joined NASA as one of 14 astronauts selected in October 1963. He piloted the Gemini IX mission, a 3-day flight where Cernan, the second American to walk in space, logged two hours and ten minutes outside the spacecraft. Cernan's second flight was on Apollo 10 where he filled the position of lunar module pilot for the first comprehensive lunar-orbital qualification and verification flight test of an Apollo lunar module. His third and final flight came as the commander of Apollo 17, the last scheduled manned mission to the moon for the United States. Cernan logged 566 hours in space with more than 73 of those spent on the surface of the moon.

Cernan passed away on January 16, 2017.

Cernan's role in the development of America's space program ushered in a new era of human spaceflight that continues to make new scientific discoveries through the International Space Station. His commitment to exploration and discovery make him an ideal honoree for the OA-8 Mission.