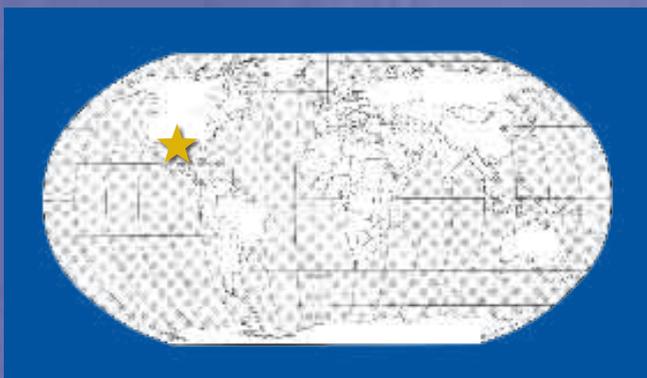


Bruce E. Melnick

Commander
Class of 1972



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Nasa Space Flight Medal to
Commander Bruce E. Melnick
United States Coast Guard**

For service as set forth in the following Summary:

Commander Melnick was selected for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut program in 1987, one of 15 selectees from 1,962 applicants. He was the first Coast Guard astronaut. Named as mission specialist for the space shuttle Discovery crew, he trained for the next three years with NASA. Discovery was launched for a four day mission, STS-41, on October 6th, 1990. The nearly flawless four-day flight, the first in a series to launch four space shuttles in five months, raised the spirits of space program officials considerably, and contributed to the continuation of support for NASA programs. Shortly after his return from STS-41, Commander Melnick was selected for the STS-49 crew as flight engineer in Endeavor, assigned to operating the shuttle's arm to retrieve and repair the IntelSat IV satellite. After launch in May 7th, 1992, despite his precise control of the shuttle arm, attempts by the spacewalkers to attach a specially designed capture bar failed. Melnick finally proposed an operation by three spacewalkers to establish the necessary control. His plan was executed and resulted in a successful mission.

Commander Melnick logged more than 300 hours in space, and retired at the rank of Commander.
