**Kathrin Ryan Cordell Thornton**

Kathryn Ryan Cordell Thornton is an American scientist and a former NASA astronaut with over 975 hours in space, including 21 hours of extravehicular activity.

She was born on August 17, 1952 (age 68) in Montgomery, Alabama, United States.

In 1970 she was graduated from high school (Sydney Lanier High School) and went to the Auburn University in Montgomery to get a degree of Bachelor of Science (Physics). In 1977 from the University of Virginia (University of Virginia) she received her Master of Science (Physics). In 1979, she received her Ph.D. in physics from the same University.

After university Kathrin has worked at the US Army Foreign Science and Technology Center in Charlottesville, Alabama.

In May 1984, she was enlisted in NASA's Astronaut Corps as a flight specialist. She took a course in General Space Training since July 1984. After graduation in June 1985, she qualified as a flight specialist and was assigned to NASA's Astronaut Office.

She worked in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory (SAIL), was a member of the Shuttle Test and Prep Team at the Kennedy Space Center, and worked as a capsule communicator (CAPCOM) at the Control Center.

Her first flight was from 23 to 28 November 1989 as a flight specialist for the shuttle Discovery STS-33. In her second flight she made one spacewalk, and on the third - two. Her fourth flight was from October 20 to November 5, 1995, it was also her last flight. Kathrin retired from the Astronaut Corps and NASA in August 1996.

Since August 1996 he has been working at the University of Virginia. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Space Adventures.

Her name is inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

*Interesting facts:*

* Serial number – 225/136/12
* Number of flights - 4
* The flight duration is 40 days 15 hours 18 minutes 48 seconds.
* The number of spacewalks - 3
* The duration of work in open space is 21 hours 11 minutes.