

Transcribed Excerpt from NASA Astronaut Peggy Whitson Returns from the International Space Station with Record-Breaking Accomplishments, September 4, 2017

“I want to congratulate Peggy and Jack for their incredible accomplishments. They make us all very proud,” said President Trump. “Exploration has always been at the core of who we are as Americans, and their brave contributions to human spaceflight have continued that great tradition.”

Whitson’s records are:

- She is the U.S astronaut who has the most cumulative time in space with a total of 665 days during three long-duration missions.
- She is the only female astronaut to command the station twice. During her second mission, she became the first woman to command the space station. During this mission, she became the first woman to command the space station twice-- she was station commander from April 9 through June 1.
- She is the female astronaut who has spent the longest time in orbit during a single spaceflight — 288 days.
- She holds multiple spacewalking records: completing the most total spacewalks — 10; and most total spacewalking time — 60 hours, 21 minutes-- for a women; and having the third most spacewalking time for any spacefarer (a cosmonaut is first and former Astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria is second)

“Peggy is an inspiration to us all,” said President Trump, “especially to young women interested in or currently pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math.”