

Supply ship named for John Glenn arrives at space station

April 22 2017, by Marcia Dunn

A supply ship bearing John Glenn's name arrived at the International Space Station on Saturday.

Astronauts used the station's big robot arm to grab the capsule, as the craft flew 250 miles (400 kilometers) above Germany.

NASA's commercial shipper, Orbital ATK, named the spacecraft the S.S. John Glenn in honor of the first American to orbit Earth. It rocketed from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Tuesday with nearly 7,700 pounds of food, experiments and other goods.

Glenn died in December at age 95 and was buried earlier this month at Arlington National Cemetery. His widow, Annie, granted permission for Orbital ATK to use his name for the Cygnus spacecraft. The company, in fact, sent up some memorabilia for the Glenn family.

Glenn made history in 1962 when he soared into orbit aboard Friendship 7, his one-man Mercury capsule. He returned to [space](#) in 1998 aboard shuttle Discovery, at age 77, right before station construction began in orbit.

Space station commander Peggy Whitson—who on Monday will set a U.S. record for most accumulated time in [orbit](#)—notified Mission Control when the capsule was captured.

"We're very proud to welcome on board the S.S. John Glenn," said

French astronaut Thomas Pesquet, who took part in the operation. The contents "will be put to good use to continue our mission of research, exploration and discovery."

Whitson and Pesquet have been living on the [space station](#) since November, along with a Russian. They were joined by another American and Russian on Thursday.

Whitson is making her third space [station](#) flight. Early Monday, she will surpass the 534-day, two-hour-and-change mark set by astronaut Jeffrey Williams last year. President Donald Trump will call her from the Oval Office to offer congratulations.

The S.S. John Glenn, meanwhile, will remain at the orbiting outpost until July, when it is let go to burn up in the atmosphere.

More information: NASA:

www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

Orbital ATK: www.orbitalatk.com/

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