

Gerald D. (Gerry) Griffin

Gerry was a Flight Director (“Gold Flight”) in Mission Control for all of the Apollo Program manned missions. Gerry was the Lead Flight Director for Apollo 12, Apollo 15 and Apollo 17. He and his “Gold” team conducted half of the lunar landings made during Apollo: Apollo’s 14, 16, & 17. Gerry’s team was scheduled to conduct the landing of Apollo 13, and when the landing was canceled as a result of an oxygen tank explosion his team played a key role in the safe return of the astronauts.

Gerry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Texas A&M University and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. After serving four years on active duty and three years in the private sector he joined NASA as a flight controller in Mission Control, specializing in guidance, navigation and control systems for Project Gemini and the early unmanned missions of the Apollo Program. Gerry was selected to be a Flight Director before the first manned Apollo mission, Apollo 7.

After the Apollo Program Gerry served as the Deputy Director of the Hugh F. Dryden (now Neil A. Armstrong) Flight Research Center and as Deputy Director of the John F. Kennedy Space Center before being named Director of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

Gerry received numerous awards during his years with NASA including the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to the Apollo 13 Mission Operations Team, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, and two NASA Exceptional Service Medals. Gerry is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Astronautical Society.

Today Gerry is a technical and management consultant for a broad range of clients in the private sector.