



Trump Aide Challenges Perry, Bezos' Fiancée's Astronaut Claims

Description

Last Thursday, the US Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy, shared his thoughts. He posted a message on a social media site called X.

He talked about some rules made by the FAA (short for Federal Aviation Administration). According to these rules, to be called an astronaut, a person must help to keep people safe during a flight or show that they can help human space flight safety. Duffy said that the people who went to space with Blue Origin were daring but they're not astronauts, as per the FAA rules.

That was a very surprising thing for him to say. The FAA had stated that they don't have any part in deciding if people who fly to space are astronauts. They have clearly mentioned this on their website's page on space travel.

A little history for you all. The FAA started a program in 2004. It is known as the "Astronaut Wings" program. It was to celebrate the two pilots of SpaceShipOne who flew the craft above 50 miles away from Earth. This program also recognized ordinary people who flew with companies like Virgin Galactic and SpaceX. The people who flew got astronaut wings on this program.

But, in December 2021, the FAA stopped giving these wings. From 2022, they said that they would just list people who go to space over 50 miles away on their website. They will no longer give out Commercial Space Astronaut Wings.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Astronaut** /'æs.trə.nɔ:t/ (noun): A person trained to travel in a spacecraft.
2. **Regulations** /,rɛɡjʊ'leɪʃənz/ (noun): Rules or directives made and maintained by an authority.
3. **Daring** /'dɛrɪŋ/ (adjective): Adventurous; bold; willing to take risks.
4. **Program** /'prəʊ.græm/ (noun): A planned series of events or activities.
5. **Recognized** /'rɛkəɡnaɪzd/ (verb): Identified or acknowledged as having a particular status or value.
6. **Commercial** /kə'mɜ:rfəl/ (adjective): Related to or engaged in commerce; business-related.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who shared his thoughts about astronaut rules?
 - Option: Sean Duffy
 - Option: Elon Musk
 - Option: Jeff Bezos
 - Option: Richard Branson

2. The FAA started the
 - Option: 2000
 - Option: 2004
 - Option: 2010
 - Option: 2015

3. What did the FAA announce about Commercial Space Astronaut Wings in December 2021?
 - Option: They will continue giving them out.
 - Option: They will stop giving them out.
 - Option: They will redesign the wings.
 - Option: They will only give wings to NASA astronauts.

4. According to the FAA rules, who can be called an astronaut?
 - Option: Anyone who goes to space
 - Option: Anyone who helps with flight safety
 - Option: Only NASA astronauts
 - Option: Only those who fly with SpaceX

5. What is the main criteria to be considered an astronaut as per Sean Duffy?
 - Option: Flying to space with Blue Origin
 - Option: Bravery
 - Option: Helping maintain flight safety
 - Option: Being part of the FAA program

6. What did the FAA stop giving out from 2022 onwards?
 - Option: Astronaut Wings
 - Option: Space Exploration Badges
 - Option: NASA Awards
 - Option: Flying Certificates



True-False

7. Sean Duffy supports the idea that people who flew with Blue Origin are astronauts.
8. The FAA has no role in determining who is considered an astronaut.
9. The FAA began the Astronaut Wings program in 2004 to recognize those who flew above 50 miles from Earth.
10. The FAA announced in December 2021 that they will give out more Astronaut Wings.
11. People who go to space only need to show they can help with human space flight safety to be called astronauts according to the FAA.
12. The FAA stopped giving Commercial Space Astronaut Wings because of budget cuts.

Gap-Fill

13. The FAA stopped giving out Astronaut Wings from _____ onwards.
14. The rule to be called an astronaut according to the FAA is to help with human space flight safety or to demonstrate the ability to help with _____.
15. In 2004, the Astronaut Wings program was initiated by the FAA to honor the pilots of _____ who traveled above 50 miles from Earth.
16. People who flew with companies like Virgin Galactic and SpaceX were also recognized under the Astronaut Wings program for their travels beyond _____ miles.
17. The FAA clarified on their website that they do not have a role in deciding whether individuals who fly to space are considered _____.
18. According to Sean Duffy, the people who flew with Blue Origin may be daring but are not astronauts



because they did not help with ensuring _____ during the flight.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Sean Duffy 2. 2004 3. They will stop giving them out. 4. Anyone who helps with flight safety 5. Helping maintain flight safety 6. Astronaut Wings

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 2022 14. flight safety 15. SpaceShipOne 16. 50 17. astronauts 18. safety

Answer

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL2

Date Created

2025/04/20

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM