



Celebrity Lecture Series

In the Line of Duty: Major Michael Adams and the X-15

October 20, 2018
11 AM Lecture



Author Michelle Evans,
Founder and President
of Mach 25 Media



Coming November 17:

Going Downtown:
The Air War Over North
Vietnam



Presentation by Colonels
Martin and Ettinger, USAF
(ret)



The X-15 rocket plane was America's premiere research X-plane. It became the first aircraft to reach hypersonic velocities, and to create a new class of astronauts, ones who flew wings into space rather than rockets. The twelfth and final of these pilot/astronauts was Major Michael Adams from the US Air Force. As soon as the first group of American astronauts was announced in 1959, Adams knew where his career would take him. He was twice forestalled in his attempts to reach space. First by losing a slot in the second group of American astronauts because of injuries sustained in an F-104 ejection, then by being chosen for the Air Force's Manned Orbiting Laboratory, which was canceled when politics entered the fray. Adams saw the X-15 as his new pathway to space, and was quickly accepted into that elite group, which included such legendary test pilots as Scott Crossfield, Robert White, and Neil Armstrong. Mike Adams was the only X-15 pilot to lose his life while flying the program. Because of this, few people know of him today.

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