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Description
Veteran NASA test pilot Bill Dana has died at 83. Dana was the last person to fly an X-15 rocket-powered aircraft, and exhibited enormous amounts of courage throughout his career.

Keywords
Aviation, Test Pilot, Bill Dana, Pilot, Aircraft, Flight, X-15, Rocket, Wings, Throttles, Career, Biography, Life, Death, Earth, Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian, Smithsonian Institute, Astronaut, Space, Exploration, United States Air Force, USAF, NASA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Discovery, Courage, Bravery, Rememberance, Obituary

Citation

MLA
Remembering NASA Test Pilot Bill Dana

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:

Bill Dana has died. And while no one has ever been able to teach courage or bottle it, Bill Dana had the kind of natural reflexive and quiet courage that makes for a great test pilot. Put it this way- a lot of the aircraft he flew are in the Air and Space Museum. He was the last man to fly the X-15, basically a rocket with wings. He took it 60 miles up to the edge of darkness, over 300,000 feet, took the throttles up to 3,897 miles an hour. He flew 60 different aircraft over a forty-eight-year career with no assurance ever that he would return safely to the earth. Bill Dana flew high enough to earn his astronaut's wings and the respect of his peers. He was 83 years old.