**William Carpentier (NASA)**

**Flight Surgeon (Apollo 11)**

Bill graduated from the University of British Columbia School of Medicine (in Canada) in 1961. He joined NASA in 1965 and was assigned to the Landing and Recovery Division as a member of the medical staff.

On the Apollo 11 mission, Bill served as the Flight Surgeon, requiring him to be “attached” to the Apollo astronauts from the moment they exited the spacecraft as it bobbed on the sea.

Bill was assigned to fly in the astronaut Recovery helicopter (#66), which lifted the three astronauts from the sea. He performed an initial physical check to be sure they were fit for the brief flight back to the USS *Hornet*. Since they were exposed to moon dust, both he and NASA engineer John Hirasaki were confined with the astronauts inside the Mobile Quarantine Facility aboard ship as well as the final 10 days of the quarantine period at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Two months later, he served as the NASA physician who accompanied the three Apollo 11 astronauts on their world-wide public relations tour.

Bill was later assigned as the Flight Surgeon for the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission, which suffered an in-flight explosion on the way to the moon and barely made it back to earth. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his key role in saving the Apollo 13 astronauts.