

144 Poppy

I created this figure to honor Frances “Poppy” Northcutt, the first female engineer to work in NASA’s Mission Operation Control.

Starting in 1965, Northcutt conducted trajectory analysis for ten Apollo missions. She contributed significantly to the return of Apollo 11 safely to earth after the world’s first manned mission to the moon and earned a Presidential Medal of Freedom Team Award after helping to bring Apollo 13’s astronauts home after their service module exploded.

In an interview honoring the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Apollo 11 landing, Northcutt described herself as “a one-time rocket scientist, a sometime lawyer, and a full-time women’s rights activist.”

One giant step for all womankind.