

Let's see, you know we have most memorable moment in orbit, I think we have all the technological things you do, the robotics, the spacewalks, the, you know, doing transfer, looking at experiments but I think for me on the first flight in 2008 with Dr. Whitson and the crew up on the International Space Station it was the moment that she said "OK, we're going to have dinner over in the service module and we all love to eat you know, you guys bring the vegetables, we'll bring the meat and we all congregated around the table" You know, French, German, Russian, Asian American, African American, first female commander. We're having this meal in space and we're going around the planet every ninety minutes, 17,500 mph and you look out the window and you're going over Afghanistan or China or these places that there's strife or all kinds of things going on and we're sitting up here with people that we used to fight with. And so when you think about how transformative that moment was, it was that we were all working together as one civilization for human exploration. So having a meal in space, I call it the space smorgasbord, sharing meals with people that we used to fight with was I think one of the most inspiring moments of my life.

Excerpt from the transcript of Melvin's 2010 interview "In Their Own Words: Astronaut Leland Melvin."

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Create an Emerge poem using the excerpt on the front of this card. Mark out words and phrases with a marker so that other expressions can *Emerge* from the author's original work. Share your work through social media and tag your poem with #PoetsForScience and #TravelingStanzas. Also consider sharing to #ScienceMarch. If you'd like, mail your poem to a friend or loved one by using a first class stamp. Through the collaborative efforts of The Wick Poetry Center and The March For Science we proudly stand together to advocate for the conservation of our environment and the importance of science through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry.



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Curated by Jane Hirshfield

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Leland Melvin
Astronaut and S.T.E.A.M. explorer

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