

**Welcome Home Astronaut Sunita Williams  
October 27, 2007**



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Sunita "Suni" Williams was born in Euclid, Ohio and moved to her hometown of Needham where she lived with her parents Dr. Deepak and Bonnie Pandya, her sister Dina and brother Jay. Suni has been married for over sixteen years to Michael Williams; and
- WHEREAS:** Sunita Williams attended the Hillside Elementary and Newman Middle Schools, and graduated from Needham High School in 1983. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1987, and a Masters Degree in Engineering Management from Florida University of Technology in 1995; and
- WHEREAS:** An excellent student in math, writing, and science, Sunita was also a determined student athlete who captained the swim team at the Naval Academy. Suni is remembered by her 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Angela DiNapoli, as someone who got along with everyone and had excellent leadership qualities; and
- WHEREAS:** Sunita Williams was twice awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and various other service awards. She was most recently honored with the Needham High School Distinguished Career Award; and
- WHEREAS:** Sunita Williams received her commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in 1987 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1989. She was assigned to Helicopter Combat Support and made overseas deployments in support of Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort. In September 1992, she was the Officer-in-Charge of a detachment sent to Miami, Florida for Hurricane Andrew Relief Operations. Suni has logged over 2,770 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft; and
- WHEREAS:** Sunita Williams was accepted into the NASA Space program in 1998. Her first assignment as a member of a NASA crew was living and working for nine days beneath the Atlantic Ocean as part of the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations program; and
- WHEREAS:** Sunita Williams served as a flight engineer aboard the International Space Station, launching on December 9, 2006 and docking on December 11, 2006. As a member of the Expedition-14 crew, Suni established a world record for women with four spacewalks totaling 29 hours and 17 minutes. She concluded her tour of duty as a member of the Expedition-15 crew returning to Earth on June 22, 2007, after logging a total of 195 days in space.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Needham jointly express their appreciation and warmest congratulations to U. S. Naval Commander Sunita Williams as she returns to her hometown following her voyage to the International Space Station, and wish her much success, happiness, and many return trips to Needham in the years to come.

*Signed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2007*

*Gerald A. Wasserman, Chairman*

*James G. Healy, Vice Chairman*

*Daniel P. Matthews, Clerk*

*John A. Bulian*

*John H. Cogswell*



*Town Hall, Needham, Mass. 1902—2002*

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Sound provided by Al Kennedy, KTK Sound Services, Medway, MA

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## Program

### *Procession*

### *Introduction*

James G. Healy, Vice Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Master of Ceremonies

### *National Anthem*

Needham High School Marching Band

### *God Bless America*

Pollard Middle School Treble Choir

### *America*

Highland Glee Club

### *Proclamation and Welcome*

Gerald A. Wasserman, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

### *Remarks*

Congressman Stephen Lynch, Ninth Congressional District  
Senator Scott Brown, Norfolk, Bristol, Middlesex District  
Representative Lida Harkins, Thirteenth Norfolk District

### *Presentation of Flag*

Maurice Handel, President, Needham Historical Society  
Polly Attridge, Archivist, Needham Historical Society

### *Remarks*

U.S. Naval Commander Sunita Williams

### *America the Beautiful*

Highland Glee Club

### *Superheroes*

Needham High School Marching Band

### *Meet Citizens*

U.S. Naval Commander Sunita Williams

### *Refreshments*