

I'm human





Kitaw Ejigu was an Ethiopian American scientist who worked at NASA from late 1970s until his death in 2006. Born on February 25, 1948, in Kefa Bonga, Ethiopia, Kitaw studied mechanical engineering with a specialization in agricultural technology at Bahir Dar Polytechnic Institute and graduated as the top student in 1966. He later moved to Japan on a scholarship, where he attended Hiroshima University for automotive engineering and Osaka University for language and economics. After completing his studies, Kitaw earned an MBA in 1979 and a doctorate in space vehicle systems engineering from Northrop University in California. Kitaw worked as a system engineer and space research scientist at NASA, collaborating on the space shuttle and other rocketry projects. He also held positions at Rockwell International and Boeing. Apart from his work as an aerospace scientist, Kitaw was known for his efforts to bring about political change in Ethiopia. He publicly denounced the regime and its actions, but said he was not made welcome by it. In 2002, Kitaw founded the Ethiopian National United Front to help overthrow Meles Zenawi's regime. Before his death on January 13, 2006, at the age of 58, Kitaw planned to work with Tad Worku on implementing his knowledge for the people of Africa and the world to see. Kitaw was involved with children when an accident occurred. He had experienced internal brain hemorrhage which the medical team couldn't stop. Kitaw was born on April 23, 1948, in Bonga, Keffa, Ethiopia. He studied at Miazia 27th High School and Bhar Dar Polytechnic Institute before graduating with a mechanical engineering specialization in Agricultural Technology. After obtaining his diploma, Kitaw worked at EASSCO as Chief technical advisor and assistant manager for two years. In 1972 he won a scholarship to study automotive engineering and Japanese economics in Japan. He later moved to the US where he earned an MS/MBA in business administration and a doctorate from Northrop University in California. Kitaw became interested in space technology during his studies. While pursuing his education, Kitaw worked for various aerospace companies like Garret Air Research and Advanced Bonding Technology Labs. In 1977 he was hired by JPL's Jet Propulsion Lab (a NASA research center) and gained recognition as Chief Spacecraft Systems Design Engineer. Kitaw invented two aerospace mechanisms for JPL/NASA and was a systems design engineer at Boeing, Rockwell International, and Loral Corp. He was responsible for launching advanced planetary mission spacecrafts and earth-orbiting satellite systems. As a systems designer at JPL, Kitaw managed the NASA/ESA International Solar Polar Mission Spacecraft Systems Interface. Kitaw invented two aerospace mechanisms in 1978 while working with other NASA scientists and the Apollo astronaut Buz Aldrin. He joined Rockwell International in 1986 as Principal Investigator/Chief Research Engineer for advanced space systems projects. He worked as a Project Manager at Rockwell, overseeing the development of kinetic energy weapons systems and managing the Lunar/Mars Micro-Rover research and development effort. Kitaw Ejigu was a pioneering Ethiopian American engineer and political leader who dedicated his life to advancing technology-based development, particularly in Africa. In 2001, he founded the Ethiopian National United Front (ENUF), an opposition party that aimed to bring about democratic change in Ethiopia. Ejigu's leadership was marked by his determination to build a democratic nation, free from tyranny and ethnocentrism, through multi-pronged strategies. He earned the respect of millions with his visionary leadership, generosity, and personal achievements. Ejigu collaborated with NASA on space technology projects, inventing mechanisms such as GPS and a flight simulator for Boeing. His legacy will be deeply missed by his family, including his spouse Stella Ejigu and children Sarah Abigail, Benyam, and Yared, as well as extended families and friends who admired him. Developing both leadership skills and a strong track record of achievements is essential for career advancement and personal growth.

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