Judith Resnik
ASTRONAUT

BIRTHPLACE - Akron, OH, April 5, 1949
DEATH DATE - Jan 28, 1986 (age 36)

ABOUT

Judith Resnik was the second American female astronaut and the first American Jewish astronaut, who died tragically in the Challenger explosion. She previously had been a part of mission aboard the Discovery.

BEFORE FAME

She got a perfect score on the SAT in high school and later earned an electrical engineering degree from Carnegie Mellon University.

NASA

She logged 145 hours in space as mission specialist on the maiden voyage of Space Shuttle Discovery, two years before the Challenger accident.

FAMILY LIFE

She married Michael Oldak, a fellow student at Carnegie Mellon University, but the two divorced four years later.

ASSOCIATED WITH

She was inspired to join NASA by actress Nichelle Nichols, who played communications officer Uhura on the classic Star Trek series.