My great grandfather was born in 1909 in Sweden. During the beginning of World War 2 he moved to the United States to be a pilot in the war. He always had an interest in aircraft and flying, so he felt that it was his duty to join the war effort and become a pilot. During World War 2 he was a pilot being trained under General Doolittle. While he was training to be a pilot he also built DC3s at Clover field (Santa Monica Airport) airport Douglas Aircraft facility. The last DC3 was built in 1958 and they are still out there flying commercially.

My great grandpa worked on as many projects as he could from rockets to airplanes and space crafts. During the late 1960's the aircraft industry were going through some tough times and the competition was high because the United States wanted to surpass the Russians over air and space superiority and because of the Vietnam war. The aircraft industry was going through hard times because Douglas Aircraft Company was struggling to expand production to meet demands for DC-8 and DC-9 airliners and the A-4 Skyhawk attack planes. Douglas Aircraft Company was having cash flow problems, DC-10 development costs, and with shortages
because of the Vietnam war, led Douglas to agree to a merger with McDonnell Aircraft Corporation to form McDonnell Douglas. Douglas Aircraft Company continued as its own subsidiary of McDonnell Douglas, but its space and missiles division became part of a new subsidiary called McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Company

My great grandpa wanted to help the United States beat the Russians over space superiority because he knew that if they lost this race the Russians would have the power to use nuclear missiles anywhere in the world by space. He also believed that whoever was the first country to get into space would win the cold war. He also wanted to be a part of the aircraft programs because he liked to build aircrafts.

My great grandpa was chosen to help build with the Skylab team was because he was an optical engineer which means he worked with the design and specifications of glass products. He worked on the design team for the cockpit windows of the DC8 the first true commercial passenger jet airliner. When he was hired to be the optical engineer he was the principal designer of the window that looked into space from Skylab, the first manned orbital space laboratory.

The reason why my Great grandpa worked on the Apollo project was because they had to retro fit the container that took Skylab into space. He had to try and make the glass window from shattering so he put acrylic glass in so the window wouldn’t shatter. They had to fit the landing module with acrylic glass on the Apollo 5 launch vehicle so it can withstand the pressure and G force of space and not shatter. He also felt that it was his duty to help fight against the Russians because he didn’t want the communist to beat the United States.
My great grandpa was very much honored to help be a part of the Apollo project because he knew that this would help win the cold war and he was able to help achieve President Kennedy’s dream of being the first country to be putting a man on the moon.