

now we're minimum fuel. The propulsion engineer, our controller, said "60 seconds flight," and I reported 60 seconds to the crew. That means they had 60 seconds to land or we were going to call an abort. So you can imagine the tension. Then he said, "30 seconds flight." So I said, "Eagle, 30 seconds." They were close, but they weren't on the ground. According to my watch, it was 13 seconds later. I heard Buzz Aldrin say, "Contact, engine stop." We knew they were on the Moon. I mean, the tension was out the roof, and it was like somebody punching a big balloon that was busting with air and.. All of it went. Let's say that's tension. The tension just went out the room. We were so excited.

General Dike

Some didn't have to call that abort because of the skills of the crew and the fact that they'd already been going to a identified a landing spot and they were coming down. Actually, they had 4% fuel remaining if we had called an abort, but that 4% was designed to lift the lunar module back up into orbit and then they could abort stage, so it wasn't fuel for landing. I think Neil.. 20 feet off the Moon, you're not going to abort. He had the final decision 20 feet, 30 feet, off the Moon. You got 4%. He would've landed. Fortunately, we didn't have to violate a mission rule and the mission was success. But I'll tell you. The tension as CAPCOM in Apollo 11 was higher than the tension I experienced actually landing on the Moon. He

then the last 30 minutes was Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed. They sang and played and that was a 30 minute program just for us.

General Duke

The whole crew though everybody wasn't a country music fan, they really loved it. They were telling jokes and [inaudible 002731] to all this. It was very, very, very, very special. My neighbor around the corner here in New Braunfels is Randy Rogers, who's a country music star this day. I took the tape over and he listened to it. He said, "Hey, this is great. Can I write a song about this?" So he and Robert Earl Keen wrote a song called Charlie Duke Took Country Music to the Moon. It's really cute. It's been out for about a year and a half now, so you don't hear it very much anymore, but it was really special. And the other two guys loved those tapes. We had a good time playing those over and over again.

Paul Thies

Oh, that's that's awesome. Well, General Duke, I really thank you so much for the time you spent reminiscing about this historic trip and your experience, this one in a lifetime, unbelievable experience, and your service to our country. I really just thank you so much for sitting down with me today.

General Duke

Thank you, Paul. I appreciate it. Loved being with you.
