

NAA NEWS

National Aeronautic Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Ivey, 703-527-0226

E-Mail: divey@naa.aero



September 9, 2005

NAA Announces 2005 Elder Statesman Award Winners

Alexandria, VA – The National Aeronautic Association announced the winners of five Elder Statesman of Aviation Awards, which honors outstanding Americans over the age of 60 who have made contributions of significant value to aviation.

John D. Anderson, Jr. from Silver Spring, Maryland, won for a career at the forefront of aeronautical engineering. As far back as 1959, after Anderson graduated from the University of Florida, Anderson served the U.S. at the Aeronautical Research Laboratories at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Later in his career he became a professor, eventually becoming chair of the Aerospace Engineering at the University of Maryland and teaching at the school until 1999. From 1988 to 1999, Anderson was the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum's curator for aerodynamics, and is known around the world as a top aeronautical scientist.

Eugene (Gene) Deatrick from Alexandria, Virginia, won for his service to the United States military, especially as one of its top test pilots. In 1951 he became a member of the first class of the new Experimental Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB. For five years he worked in the Bomber Flight Test Division, working on the B-47 and B-52. By 1966 he commanded the First Air Commando Squadron, then flew with distinction in the Vietnam War, completing more than 400 combat missions. He served in many capacities until his retirement in 1974, including stints with the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of testing at Air Force Systems Command at Andrews AFB.

Elmer (Al) Gleske from Annapolis, Maryland, for nearly 50 years in the aviation industry. He spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force starting in 1955, serving in a variety of capacities, including flying 171 combat missions in Vietnam. After leaving the Air Force he continued his career in Aviation, working for the Department of Transportation before joining FlightSafety International as its vice president of governmental affairs, where he

worked for 26 years. Through FlightSafety he helped blaze a trail for the aviation training industry.

Alan Gropman from Burke, Virginia, won for a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force. In the 1960s he served two tours of duty in Vietnam, completing 670 combat missions. By 1970 he was an assistant professor of military history at the U.S. Air Force Academy. His research became the basis for much of our knowledge today of the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen. By 1981 he became a professor at the National War College. He is also author of "The Air Force Integrates, 1945-1964", a landmark book on minority integration in the U.S. military.

Carl Vogt from San Francisco, California, won for his dedication to the safety of aviation. In the public sector he distinguished himself as the chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. In the private sector he was a board member and chairman of the Flight Safety Foundation. After heading the NTSB starting in 1992, President Clinton called on Vogt to serve as a member of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. Before his career in government and industry, he served as a fighter pilot for the U.S. Marine Corps.

The above awards will be presented at NAA's annual Fall Awards Banquet on December 5, 2005 in Arlington, Virginia. NAA is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of several major aviation awards and it certifies all world and national aviation records set in the United States. For additional information about NAA and its mission, log on to www.naa.aero.

1737 King Street, Suite 220, Alexandria, VA 22209 703-527-0226 Fax: 703-527-0229 www.naa.aero