Washington, DC, September 10, 2008 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) announced that Norman R. Augustine will be the recipient of the 2008 Wright Memorial Trophy. Mr. Augustine is being honored for his “Legendary and inspirational aerospace leadership in both industry and government.” Augustine is a National Medal of Technology recipient and head of numerous vital military programs and blue ribbon panels. He also is a respected author and academic.

“I have known Norm for many years and have admired his leadership in many of the most critical issues involving the industrial base of our nation’s defense,” said Walter Boyne, Chairman of the National Aeronautic Association.

Jonathan Gaffney, President and CEO of NAA and Chairman of the Selection Committee, in commenting on the selection process, explained, “We had one of the most competitive Wright Trophy selection processes in many years. There were numerous individuals who were all qualified for this most prestigious award, and the Selection Committee reviewed each nomination very carefully. Mr. Augustine was a most worthy selection and we congratulate him on this great honor.”

The Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to a living American for "significant public service of enduring value to aviation in the United States." The words "public service" are interpreted to include either (1) public service whether as a full-time employee of government or as an unpaid volunteer serving on a government commission or agency, or (2) service which made a major contribution of enduring value to the public. The word "aviation" should be interpreted broadly to include aerospace activities.
The Wright Memorial Trophy will be presented at the annual Wright Memorial Dinner hosted by the Aero Club of Washington at the Washington Hilton Hotel on Friday, December 12, 2008. For more information, please visit www.naa.aero or www.aeroclub.org.

The National Aeronautic Association 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 certifies all world and national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit www.naa.aero.