



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS



Charles Alvin Dempsey

Charles A. "Chuck" Dempsey was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1924, and attended Georgia Technical Institute 1942 - 1943 prior to entering the U.S. Army Flying School in 1943, becoming Commander in 1944, Instructor Pilot in 1945, and Test Pilot in 1951.

From England and Scotland, in WWII, he flew 25 bombing missions with the 8th Air Force in B-24s, but has also flown B-17s, B-29s, B-47s, B-52s, and C-47s.

Following the end of WWII, he spent 4 years at the University of Cincinnati, graduating in 1950 with a BS degree in Design Engineering. He entered the Air Force Test Pilot School and graduated in 1951, becoming an experimental test pilot to 1953, Chief of Workspace Unit to 1956, Chief of Stress & Fatigue Branch to 1958, Chief of Escape Branch to 1960, Chief of Protective Equipment Branch to 1963, with technical Operations Division to 1976, and Chief of Plans & Programs to 1983.

During the period 1952 to 1993, Chuck has written 40 technical reports, all of which have been pub-

lished (among which is the beautiful 215-page book entitled *Fifty Years of Research on Man in Flight*).

Chuck has been granted 4 patents: on Illuminated Furniture, Aerosol Spray Can, Disposable Surgical Mask, and Illuminated Panels.

His significant accomplishments include the organization and directing of: Prone and supine position cockpit for fighter aircraft; polyurethane ejection seat cushions; fully tiltable ejection seats for long-range flights; nuclear-powered airplane habitability apparatus; established world record in prone flight endurance (80 hours, 36 minutes); developed high altitude escape system, and established world record parachute free-fall of 102,800 feet; Air Force B-58 and B-70 escape capsules; USAF/NASA Project Mercury manned landing impact research; space radiation shielding for rocket vehicles (Discoverer 31, 34 and 36, Thor-Agenda D and Atlas Pod #6), as well as for satellite OVi-2; AMD/RTD National Conference on Emergency Escape; U.S. Air Force Life Support Systems; Project Forecast bioastronautics; AMRL Manned Extravehicular Systems; AFSC B-1 Blue Ribbon Technical Review Program; Job Order Cost Accounting System (JOCAS); AMRL Biotechnology RPV and Digital Avionics Information Systems; aerosols for the IR countermeasures and Have Point Task Force; AMRL computerized management system; and the first Tri-Service Data-Based Management Information System for USAF Life Support System Program Office.

In addition to Chuck's formal university and Air Force education, he has taken several specialized courses, including:

Decision Risk Analysis, and Technological Forecasting, AFIT; Effects of Technological Development, U.S. Civil Service Commission; Executive Management Course and Management of Research & Development, American Management Assn.; Creative Engineering, Astronautics and Orbital Vehicles, MIT.

When Chuck was approached by Tom Sheetz to take on the re-design and supervision of construction of a Wright B flyer to meet current FAA requirements, he readily agreed and followed through to completion, and this aircraft is flown regularly and known throughout the world.

Chuck has received many honors and awards, among which are:

Deeds-Kettering Award, by Engineers Club; Exceptional Civilian

Service Award, Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Sustained Superior Service Award, Sustained Superior Performance Award, Outstanding Air Force Unit Award—all by WPAFB; Outstanding Engineer of the Year, by National Engineers Week; Founder's Award, by Kettering Engineering & Science Center; Outstanding Engineering Award, by Engineering Society of Cincinnati; Science and Industry Design Award, by Chicago Museum of Science & Industry; Lighting Hall of Fame, by G.E. Co.; and Outstanding Industrial Design Award by National Furniture Market!

His memberships in professional and technical societies have included:

Engineers Club of Dayton, World Future Society, AIAA, Experimental Aircraft Assn., Ohio Academy of Science and American Rocket Society.

He has served on the Boards of:

Engineers Club; World Future Society; Wright B Flyer, Inc.; American Heart Assn.; ASD Incentives Award Program; Kettering Engineering & Science Center; Aviation Hall of Fame; Guggenheim Aviation Injury Committee; Community Methodist Church; and National Jamboree Committee, BSA.

Chuck and his wife, Carolyn, have two daughters, Cynthia Hartman and Cheryl Osler, and five grandchildren. His wife and both daughters are graduate nurses.

Chuck has done much for the Engineers Club, especially for the Wright Room, where he has carved and provided the likeness of Orville Wright, a miniature model of the Wright B Flyer, an exact duplicate of the propeller used in the First Powered Flight, and it was through Chuck Dempsey that the first pilot's license ever issued (to Orville Wright) was given to the Engineers Club. He programmed the Club's computers to maintain a continuous activity and membership record, and to print out the monthly *Dayton Engineer*, of which he was the editor, July 1989 to April 1991. Chuck, along with Tom Sheetz, was very instrumental in establishing the Barn Gang as a vital organization within the Club. Unfortunately, a severe health problem has limited Chuck's ability during the past year or two to do many of the things that he would have enjoyed doing.

We are proud, indeed, to place the name of Charles A. Dempsey upon our honored roll of this beloved VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!