

CLUB BESTOWS DEEDS-KETTERING AWARD TO KENTON W. ZAHRT

Kenton W. Zahrt recently retired as Chief, Technology Coupling Division, Deputy for Development Planning, Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. As a senior member of the ASD management group, he had the responsibility for search and recognition of research results and novel concepts, and the development of unique management procedures to assure their earliest integration into weapon system planning. His overall objective was that of maintaining a dominant position for the Air Force in aeronautical systems research and development. Subsequent to his retirement, he has been consolidating his career notes and experiences in order to provide consultation and guidance to planners who may be facing unique challenges.

Following a brief industrial career, Ken Zahrt moved to Dayton and joined the Aircraft Laboratory of WADD (now ASD) in April 1942, where he served until September 1953, and attained the position of Section Chief in the Mechanical Branch. During these years, his efforts produced a series of technical reports and publications concerned with the dynamics of aircraft landing gear and wheel-incited structural loads. Also during this period, he earned his Master of Science degree from Ohio State University. His next assignment was Assistant Chief of the Plans Office under the Directorate of Research, ASD, WPAFB, Ohio. In May 1957, he was promoted to Senior Program Planner in aeronautical research for the Division staff, and in July 1962, advanced to Chief, Research & Technology Division, DCS/Plans. After graduating from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1963, he returned to the Aeronautical Systems Division as Director of Analysis and Evaluation, Deputy for Advanced Systems Planning.

Ken Zahrt has given many public talks, professional lectures and television appearances on ASD activities. Published material includes: "Dynamic Temperatures in Aircraft Pneumatic Tires," "Unit Construction Index for Aircraft Landing Gear Design," "WADD Research Approach," "WADD Long Range Plan," "Technology for Tomorrow," "Bionics—Base for Innovation," and "The Prototype—A Reference Book for Technology Transfer." He holds an Ohio Professional Engineer License and is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Dayton Engineer's Club, the AIAA, and The American Society for Cybernetics.

Born in Brooklyn, New York on July 9, 1917, he attended elementary school in Akron, Ohio; completed his college preparatory work at Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio in 1934; and graduated from the University of Akron in 1939 with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree. He received his Master of Science degree from Ohio State university, Columbus, Ohio in 1948, and from 1954-1958 attended several short courses and seminars at MIT, Penn State, Colgate, and others on specialized scientific and management subjects. In 1963 he received a resident course diploma from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, at the same time earning a Master of Business Administration degree from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Zahrt lives with his wife, Catharine. They have five grown children—three sons and two daughters.

