

The Aero Club of  
Northern California

1998 Award Winner

**DONALD D. ENGEN**



**VICE/ADMIRAL USN (RET)**  
**FAA ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DIRECTOR NASA MUSEUM**

*Engen climbs into the cockpit of an F4H-1 for an altitude record attempt in September 1959. The pressure suit is necessary because of the loss of cabin pressure when the engines are purposely shut down.*



*The left main landing gear breaks off Engen's F-8D Crusader after catching the number 3 wire on the USS Coral Sea in April, 1963.*

*Don Engen assumes command of the USS America at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in January, 1996.*



# DONALD D. ENGEN

Donald D. Engen was born in Pomona, California on May 28, 1924. As a young boy, he was fascinated with aviation. He frequently went to see Roscoe Turner, Jimmy Doolittle and other notable aviators of the time.

Engen entered the Navy in June of 1942 as a seaman second class and began his flight training under the wartime Civil Pilot Training (CPT) program. This was followed by naval pre-flight school at St. Mary's College in Northern California, then to the E Base at

Los Alamitos Naval Reserve Base. He received his naval aviator wings at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station on June 9, 1943.

During World War II, Engen flew the Navy SB2C dive bomber and helped sink the Japanese aircraft carrier, *Zuikaku*, at Leyte Gulf in October of 1944. Between 1942 and 1978, as both a Navy carrier pilot and a Navy test pilot, Engen flew a myriad of military aircraft, including both propeller and jet propelled aircraft. Among his 29 decorations and awards is the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest award for valor. He commanded Fighter Squadron 21, Carrier Group eleven, USS *Mount Katmai*, USS *America*, and Carrier Division Four. He is a graduate of the Empire Test Pilot School in England and was a Navy engineering test pilot for many years. He is also a member of the test pilot Hall of Honor.



Engen retired as a Vice-Admiral in 1978, then serving as the Deputy Commander-in-chief of the U.S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Other prestigious awards include the Jimmy Doolittle award for Outstanding Professional Accomplishments in Aerospace Management from the Society of Experimental Test Pilots in 1984 and the Yuri Gagarin

Gold medal for a lifetime of aviation achievement issued in 1992 by the Soviet Union.

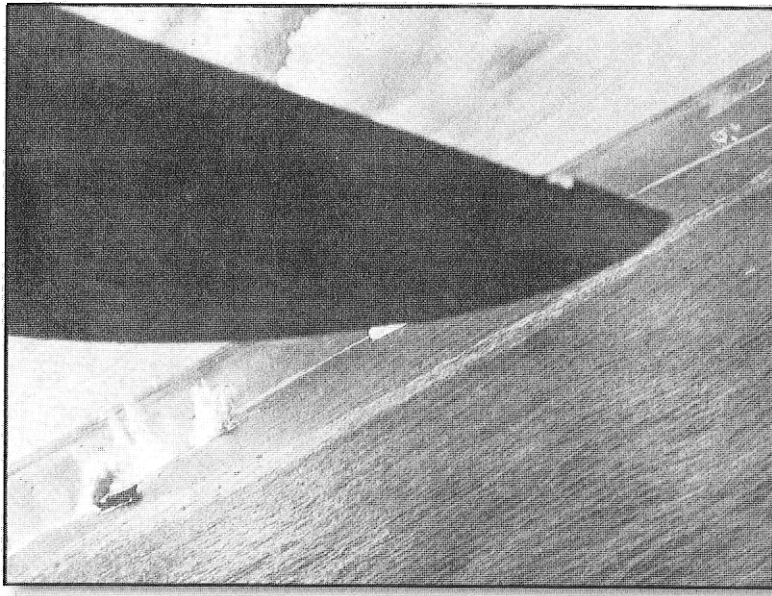
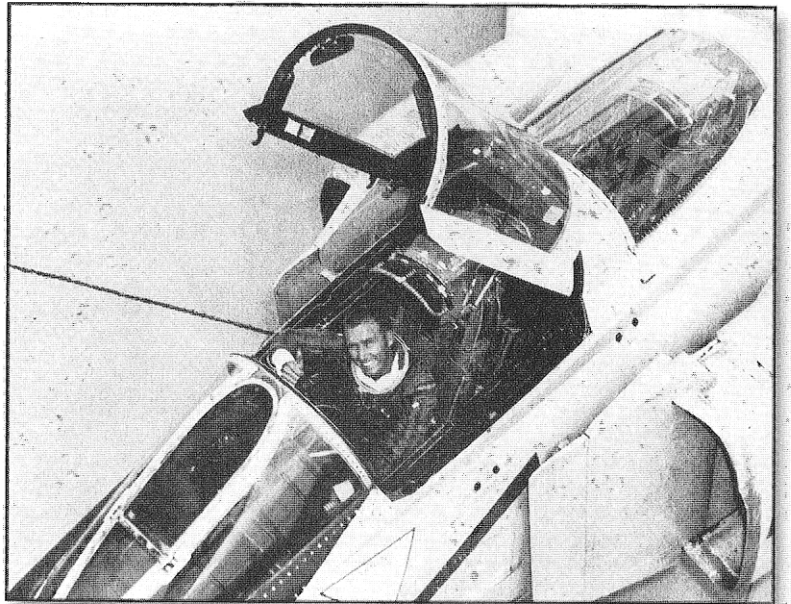
Following a distinguished Naval career, he served as a member of the

National Transportation Board (NTSB). In 1984, he was appointed Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) by President Reagan and served in that capacity for three and one-half-years. As the Administrator, he led daily and strategic efforts to improve, operate and maintain our nation's civil aviation system. Admiral Engen is presently the Director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

He has been actively flying for 54 years and has flown 7,500 hours in well over 260 types of aircraft. He holds current Single and Multi-Engine Land Commercial and Glider Pilot licenses with an instrument rating

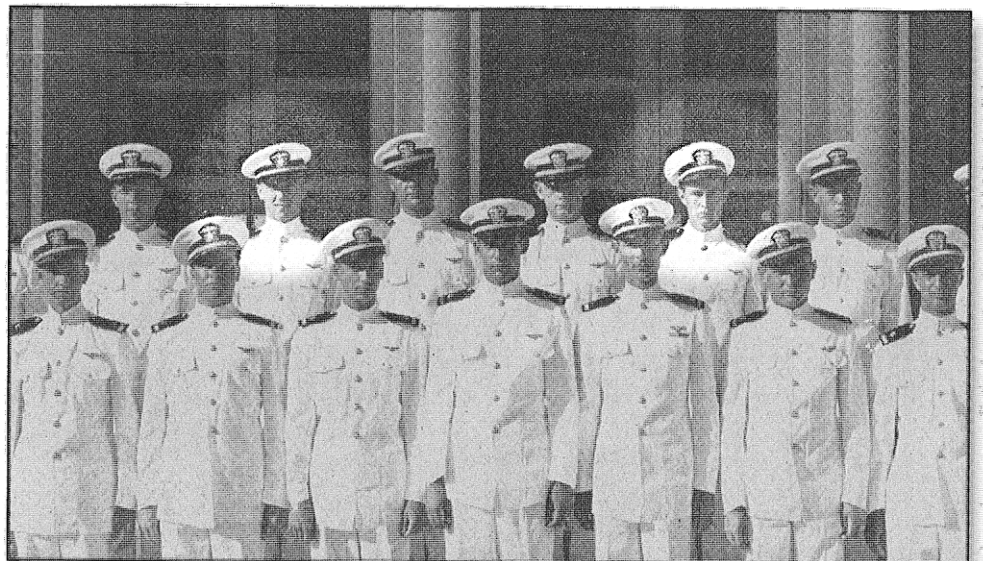
Donald Engen is married to the former Mary Baker of Pasadena, California. They have four children.

*Don sitting in a F4H-1  
cockpit giving a thumbs up  
after a test flight.*



*Japanese carrier Zuikaku and  
other ships maneuvering during  
attack at the battle for Leyte  
Gulf, October 25, 1944.*

*Class of June 9, 1943  
Corpus Christi NATC, Texas  
Ensign Donald D. Engen (left)  
Ensign George H. Bush (right)*





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# Sixteenth Annual Awards Presentation

The Aero Club of Northern California

May 2, 1998

San Jose, California

Welcome and Introduction ..... Scott Yelich

Invocation ..... Rev. Dwight Kintner

## DINNER

Introduction of Aero Club Officers and Board Members ..... Scott Yelich

Aero Club - NAA Special Honor Award

• Lee Behel ..... Steve Sullivan

James M. Nissen Scholarship Award ..... Ron Blake

• Rebecca Johnson

Roy Hester Scholarship Award ..... Bill Potter

• Jason Biggs

Guest Speaker

• Donald Engen ..... Janet Hitt

Crystal Eagle Award Presentation ..... Scott Yelich

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## The Crystal Eagle Award

The Crystal Eagle Award is presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to recognize an individual whose accomplishments have significantly contributed to the advancement of aviation or space technology.

### The Crystal Eagle: A distinctive work of art

The Crystal Eagle Award is a unique work of art crystal handcrafted in Italy.

It is fitting that the eagle should be the symbol for the Aero Club's annual award. The North American eagle is recognized as a bird possessing great strength, natural grace, keenness of vision and power in flight. The eagle has been used by man to identify with flying since its inception to our current successes in space.

The Crystal Eagle is mounted on a California redwood base, unique to Northern California. In its natural state redwood has unusual durability, commensurate with the recipients of this coveted award.

### Crystal Eagle Award Winners

1983: General James "Jimmy" Doolittle

1984: Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager

1985: Stanley Hiller, Jr.

1986: William "Bill" Lear, Sr.

1987: James M. "Jim" Nissen

1988: Anthony W. "Tony" LeVier

1989: Elbert "Burt" L. Rutan

1990: George S. Cooper

1991: Allen E. Paulson

1992: Jeana Yeager

1993: Robert T. Jones

1994: Frank L. Christensen

1995: James S. Ricklefs

1996: Darryl G. Greenamyre

1997: Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson



## Our Special Thanks to:

Hillis Printing/Chuck Hillis  
Hugh Center Trust/ Art Lund  
Sixteenth St. Design/Bill & Kim Pfahnl  
Student AAAE Chapter - SJSU

San Jose International Airport (SJC)  
Special Recognition  
• Julianne Bernhardt - SJC

The Aero Club of Northern California was formed to promote those activities which advance aviation and aerospace within Northern California.

We are a chapter of our parent organization, the National Aeronautic Association (NAA), which having been founded in 1905 as the Aero Club of America is the oldest independent, non-profit aviation organization in the United States, and the sole U.S. representative to the Federation Aeronautique International (FAI).

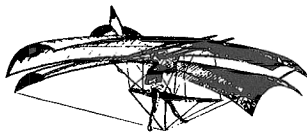
So central to aviation was the Aero Club that until 1926 it issued all pilot licenses in the United States.

The first five pilot licenses issued by the Aero Club were: 1) Glen H. Curtiss, 2) Lt. Frank P. Lahm, 3) Louis Paulham, 4) Orville Wright, and 5) Wilbur Wright. All other pilot licenses issued in the United States subsequent to these five were until 1926 issued by the Aero Club of America.

We embrace the goals of our parent organization in our efforts to support a vigorous aviation and space program for students at all levels of learning, and to recognize and honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation and space flight.

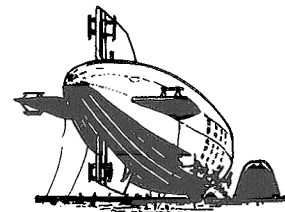
## About our logo ...

Incorporated in the logo of The Aero Club of Northern California are some of the most significant contributions the Northern California area has made to the art and science of flight.



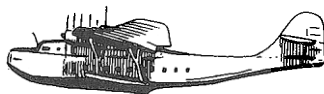
*Montgomery Flight - 1904*

Often referred to as "The Father of Basic Flying" Dr. John Montgomery was a true aviation pioneer. San Jose was the site of many of his historic achievements. Alexander Graham Bell noted that, "All subsequent attempts in aviation must begin with the Montgomery Machine."



*Moffett Field - 1933*

Dedicated April 12, 1933, Moffett Field until recently was the United States guardian of the Pacific. It continues to be a major aviation facility supporting both federal and military operations.



*China Clipper - 1935*

Lifting from San Francisco Bay waters on November 22, 1935, the Clipper became the first airplane to fly the Pacific non-stop. Cutting over 15 days off the best surface time from San Francisco to Manila, it led to the elimination of the barriers of space and time.



*NASA Ames Research Center - 1940*

Northern California's continued contributions to involvement in the quest for our ultimate destiny is assured by the ongoing advancements in aerospace science and technology at NASA's Ames Research Center.