Laurels for 1986

The following individuals have been nominated by the editors of AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY for their contributions to aerospace in 1986:

Homage is paid to the crew of the space shuttle Challenger, who died because elements of their support team grew complacent about the unforgiving realities of space flight. The deaths of astronauts Dick Scobee, Mike Smith, Judy Resnik, Ellison Onizuka, Ron McNair, Gregory Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe remind us that progress can still exact a heavy toll.

William P. Rogers, chairman, and his 12-member Presidential Commission for their investigation of the space shuttle Challenger accident. The diverse group of professors and airline managers, a newspaper, a general and two astronauts developed an intelligent and unprejudiced account of the Challenger accident and recommendations to prevent a recurrence.

Jeff McCoy, area supervisor, Tracon, Chicago O'Hare International, for directing USAF Capt. Vincent Amato as he skillfully piloted his flame-out F-16C through overcast to a safe landing at Glenview Naval Air Station.

Charles R. Higgins, Alan R. Mulally and Simon P. Scott of the Boeing wind shear team, for establishing a base for wind shear study and effective pilot training.

Peter Levene, Chief of Defense Procurement for the British Ministry of Defense, for revising the ministry’s contracting procedures to accentuate competitive procurement.

Robin Beard, assistant secretary general of NATO, for leadership in multinational cooperation on arms procurement.

William F. Ballhaus, Jr., Victor L. Peterson and F. Ron Bailey, of NASA’s Ames Research Center, for spearheading the Numerical Aerodynamic Simulator, which uses supercomputers for advanced computational fluid dynamics.

To the memories of Marcel Dassault, Claudius Dornier, Charles “Chuck” Sewell, Robert F. Six, Rene Ravaud and Edward C. Wells for lifetimes of aviation accomplishments and the legacies they leave to the aviation community.

British Aircraft Experimental Aircraft Program team including John Vincent, John Lowery, Eddie Daley, Colin Bagnall and Peter Orme, for designing, building and starting flight tests of the EAP demonstrator in less than four years.

Dassault-Breguet's Rafale A team, including Bruno Revelli-Falcoz, Jean-Claude Hironde and Guy Mitiaux-Maurouard for their rapid-paced development and flight testing of the Rafale A demonstrator aircraft.

Prof. Matthew Kabrisky and his Air Force Institute of Technology electrical engineering graduate students for research and pattern recognition in support of Air Force Wright Aeronautical Laboratories programs in expert systems.

Jean-Jacques Dordain, for advancing Europe's space technology as coordinator of space activities at France's ONERA research agency, leading the Ariane V13 accident investigation and heading ESA's Microgravity Promotion and Utilization Dept.

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Britain's Westland helicopter company, who led it through a fierce political dispute, bringing it from near-bankruptcy to profitability in just over a year.

Fredric d'Allest, head of the French CNES space agency, for leadership in integrating the Hermes manned spaceplane program as a European Space Agency cooperative project.

The Interagency Consultative Group, led by Roger M. Bonnet, European Space Agency; Roald Z. Sagdeev, Intercosmos; Minoru Oda, Japan's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, and Burton L. Edelson, NASA, for the international Halley's Comet mission and for expanding the group's activities into new joint science missions. Also, the ESA Giotto team, led by Ruediger Reinhard, for Giotto's flyby of Halley's Comet and the images achieved by principal investigator H. U. Keller.

Thomas V. Jones, chairman and chief executive officer of Northrop Corp., for persevering with the company-funded F-20 Tigershark program until the Air Force rejected it in the Air Defense Fighter competition.

Col. Albert C. Picairello, USAF, former program manager of the advanced tactical fighter (ATF) for setting, explaining and meeting the goals of the new fighter development effort.

Christopher Podsiadly, 3M director of science research laboratory, for persistence in getting a 62-flight, 10-year agreement with NASA for commercial research on shuttle and for keeping senior 3M managers enthused about commercial space.

Steven G. Rothmeier, chairman and chief executive officer, Northwest Airlines, for buying Republic Airlines, a half interest in Trans World Airlines' Pars computer reservation service and Airbus Industrie A320s in moves to revitalize Northwest.

Air Force Secretary Pete Aldridge for outspoken leadership and aggressive initiatives that will help recover both the U.S. civil and military space programs.

Richard P. Luscher, former Voyager spacecraft project manager at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Edward C. Stone, project scientist and their support teams for the successful flyby of the planet Uranus.


The Soviet Mir team for developing the world's first truly modular space station and cosmonauts Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovyev for their Soyuz T-15 mission, the first to demonstrate crew transfer between two stations, the Mir and Salyut 7.

Lew Allen of Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pete Smith and Sam Keller of NASA and Mike Michoud of the U.S. State Dept. for helping achieve a new U.S./Soviet space agreement that could lead to joint exploration of Mars.


Lawrence H. Westerlund, vice president for engineering and operations at Comsat Communications Service Div., for the Comsat Maneuver control technique that can double communications satellite life.

Anthony J. DeLuca, competition advocate for the Air Force Systems Command, for doubling the dollar amount of contracts competitively awarded by Air Force Systems Command.

Tulinda Deegan, Regional Airline Assn. vice president, for efforts in behalf of handicapped airline passengers.

USAF Capt. Marc Felman, KC-10 commander, USMC Capt. Jerry Chase, KC-130 commander and their flight and ground crews, for launching in near zero-zero weather to refuel USMC A-4M Skyhawks caught with minimum fuel in deteriorating weather over the Azores.

Don Latham, assistant secretary of Defense for command, control, communications and intelligence, for energetic efforts to carry out President Reagan's early mandate to modernize the nation's vital C-Cubed facilities and capabilities.

—DONALD E. FINK/New York