Major Lee H. Person, Jr., USMC (Ret.)
Yorktown, Virginia

Inducted in 2011, Lee H. Person, Jr.'s distinguished 33 year career as a researcher and test pilot at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia placed him at the leading edge of aerospace research. Beginning in 1962, Lee led or partnered in ground breaking research in NASA's aeronautics and space programs where he was responsible for major advances in civilian aviation safety and Apollo Lunar Excursion Module development and Vectoring in Forward Flight science. Lee conducted pioneering research as project pilot on NASA's Vectoring in Forward Flight Program and is recognized as an international authority on in-flight thrust vectoring. Lee was directly responsible for thrust vectoring system modifications and operational development of USMC and RAF Harrier aircraft. Persons was an active researcher in NASA's Lunar Landing Research Facility simulators where he tested and developed Apollo LEM design data, Lunar landing operational techniques and Gemini- LEM docking and space station rendezvous techniques. He led the evaluation of the "Icarus" backpack and "POGO" one man small rocket lift device for lunar surface travel. Arguably, Person's most significant contributions came from his work as Chief Pilot on NASA's B-737 Transport Systems Research Vehicle on the joint NASA – FAA – Industry Windshear Program. From 1986 through 1992 he conducted research leading directly to the development of detection equipment and flight management concepts and systems providing pilots the tools needed to effectively respond to the windshear threat that had claimed over 500 lives in the 20 years prior to the program's inception.