SCHIMMEL PRESENTED NASA PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL

Morry L. Schimmel was awarded a NASA Public Service Medal March 27 at the Honor Awards Ceremony at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

He received the award "for outstanding technical contributions to the advancement of the pyrotechnic technology base critical to the successful completion of major NASA programs."

Born in 1927, Schimmel received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering in 1948 from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

He has thirty-nine years of research and engineering experience in the design and development of explosive, propellant, and pyrotechnic devices for aerospace vehicles.

The Schimmel Company was established in 1984 to furnish technical assistance to NASA, Langley Research Center. During the period 1984-1990, the principal programs were:

1) evaluation of a confined explosive severance design used on Galileo, IUS, and Shuttle/Centaur; 2) studies of escape system devices used on Army helicopters, B-1B aircraft, RSRA X-Wing, and Space Shuttle; and 3) development of an ignitability test method. In August 1990, NASA Langley awarded the Schimmel Company a five-year contract, for engineering support in performing pyrotechnic research, development, and application studies. Tasks include service life evaluation, failure analysis, improved designs, and better test methods.

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Prior to having his own company, Schimmel was associated with McDonnell Douglas Corporation for 28 years, responsible for the application of explosive and pyrotechnic technology to aircraft, spacecraft, and missiles. Before that he was employed for four years as a pyrotechnic research engineer by the Universal Match Corporation, where his duties included the formulation and testing of heat powders, ignition mixes, and time delays.

Schimmel is the author or co-author of 20 technical publications, and received awards in 1985 and 1988 as co-author of the Outstanding Publication within the Systems Engineering and Operations Directorate of NASA Langley Research Center. Also, he received the 1989 M.P. Koch Award from SAFE for significant contributions in the advancement of hardware for safety and survival application.

He holds 11 patents, with another pending.

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