ST. CLAIR PRESENTED NASA EXCEPTIONAL SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Terry L. St. Clair was awarded a NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal March 27 at the Honor Awards Ceremony at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. He received the award "for the development of high-performance polymers and technology in support of aerospace programs."

St. Clair is presently Head, Polymeric Materials Branch, and is responsible for the development of polymer-based materials for advanced aircraft and spacecraft applications. These applications include films and coatings, fiber-reinforced composites, and high temperature adhesives. His specialized fields of work are high temperature composites and adhesives.

St. Clair came to Langley in September 1972 on a post-doctoral research and development grant in adhesives. He joined NASA as an employee in 1975, as an aerospace chemical engineer. In 1986 he was appointed Assistant Head, Polymeric Materials Branch.

Before coming to NASA, St. Clair worked for DuPont in Waynesboro, Va., in Orlon fiber quality control.
A native of Roanoke, Va., St. Clair graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in Salem, Va. He received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Roanoke College in 1965. He received a doctorate in organic chemistry in 1972 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where he was a member of three honorary societies: Phi Kappa Phi, academics; Sigma Xi, research; and Phi Lambda Upsilon, chemistry. St. Clair is a member of the American Chemical Society and Adhesion Society. He is a past president of the latter.

The author or co-author of over 100 technical papers on high temperature polymers, St. Clair holds more than 40 U.S. and foreign patents on polymeric materials and processes, and was voted the NASA Inventor of the Year for 1985. In addition to his present award he has received two IR-100 Awards (given for the nation's top 100 inventions of the year), six Technology Transfer Awards, and a NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal.

St. Clair and his wife Anne live in Poquoson. They have one son.

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