For Release:

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NASA EMPLOYEES TO BE ELEVATED TO AIAA RANKS AT AWARDS BANQUET

Twenty NASA Langley Research Center employees have been selected for the rank of Fellow or Associate Fellow by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. The honor will be bestowed upon them at the annual AIAA Hampton Roads Section Awards Banquet Monday, May 23, at the Langley Activities Center.

Elevated to the rank of Fellow are Dennis Bushnell, Wilmer Reed III and Dr. Gerald Walberg. Named to the rank of Associate Fellow are Dr. Robert M. Bennett, Dr. John P. Drummond, Dr. John W. Edwards, George C. Greene, Dr. Ferdinand Grosveld, Brantley R. Hanks, Ray V. Hood, Robert J. Huston, Laurence D. Leavitt, Robert R. Lynch, Dr. Chuh Mei, David S. Miller, Dr. Raymond Montgomery, A. Gary Price, Wallace C. Sawyer, Lawrence W. Taylor Jr., and James L. Thomas.

Individuals are selected for these ranks by AIAA in recognition of professional standing and outstanding personal contributions to arts, sciences or technology of aeronautics and astronautics.
Following the awards presentation, Richard E. Gillespie, executive director of The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR), will present a program entitled "Project Midnight Ghost and Other Stories."

Project Midnight Ghost concerns TIGHAR's attempt to locate the White Bird, a French plane that took off from Paris May 8, 1927, 12 days before Lindbergh began his historic flight. It is reported by some that the White Bird crashed in Maine. If true, then the French pilots, Nungesser and Coli, could have also crossed the Atlantic Ocean, even though Lindbergh was the first to successfully fly non-stop from New York to Paris. Videotapes and vugraphs will be shown of the investigations conducted in this effort.

TIGHAR is a non-profit foundation dedicated to promoting responsible aviation archaeology and historic preservation. Incorporated in 1985, TIGHAR's activities include compiling and verifying reports of rare and historic aircraft surviving in remote areas, conducting investigations and recovery expeditions in cooperation with museums and collections worldwide, and serving as a voice for integrity, responsibility and professionalism in aviation historic preservation.

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