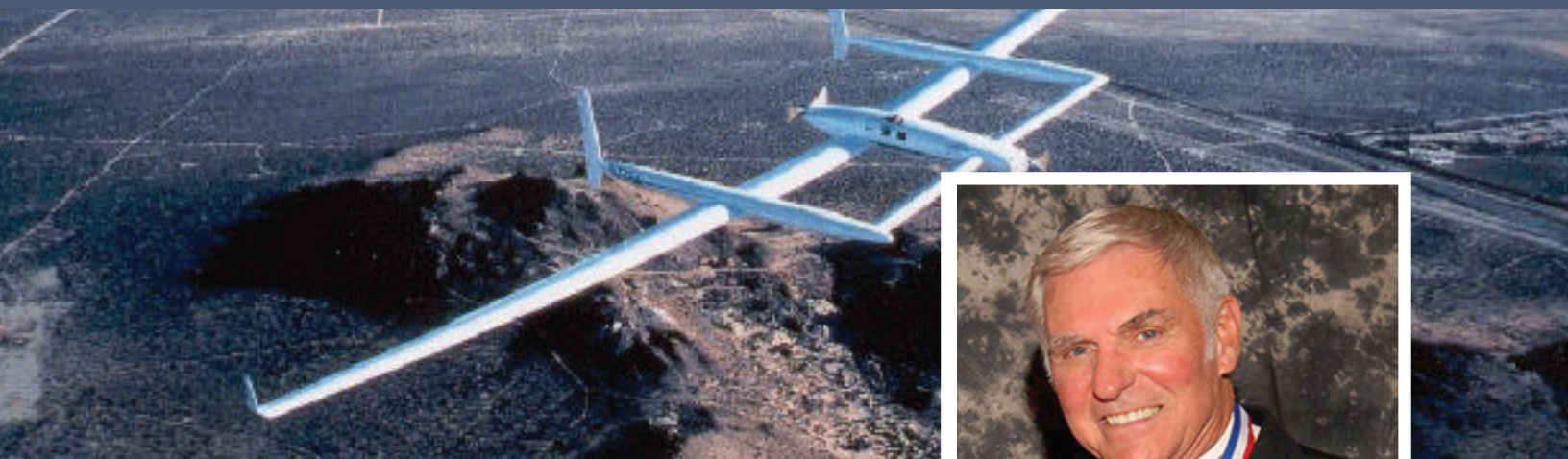


The Aileron

June, 2021

Official Publication of the Aero Club of Southern California



RICHARD "DICK" RUTAN

42nd Howard Hughes Memorial Award Winner



Lieutenant Colonel Richard "Dick" Rutan is a retired United States Air Force officer and fighter pilot, test pilot, and record-breaking aviator renowned for piloting the 1986 Voyager aircraft on the first nonstop, non-refueled around-the-world flight. The Voyager mission earned Dick and his brother Burt Rutan worldwide recognition and accolades including the Presidential Citizens Medal awarded by President Ronald Regan.

Born in Loma Linda, California in 1938, Dick's childhood interest in flight led his mother to declare that he was, "born with aviation fuel in his veins instead of blood." On his 16th birthday, Dick completed his first

solo flight, after only six hours of dual training. Later that day, his mother drove him to the DMV office so he could get his driver's license. In high school, Dick became infatuated with the F-100 Super Sabre and vowed that he would someday fly one. After graduation, he joined the United States Air Force Aviation Cadet Program.

He served the Air Force as a Tactical Air Command fighter pilot in Vietnam, where his dreams of flying the F-100 came true. Dick flew 325 combat missions in the Vietnam War. 105 of those missions were with the top-secret MISTY group, a special, forward air control unit that used their two-seat F-100 fighters to mark targets over North Vietnam

along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

During Dick's last strike reconnaissance mission with the MISTYs, disaster struck when his F-100 was hit by enemy ground fire over North Vietnam. Miraculously, Dick and his fellow pilot managed to maneuver the burning Super Sabre to a safe location on the coast, where they successfully ejected and were later rescued.

By the time he retired from the service in 1978, Dick had achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and earned numerous prestigious accolades including the Silver Star, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, 16 Air Medals and the Purple Heart. Following

Continued on page 2 >

Rutan (from Page 1)



Dr. Jutilla talking to Dick following world flight. Photo courtesy of Bob Brubaker



Photo courtesy of Voyager Aircraft, LLC



Voyager after arrival at Oshkosh for first look. Photo courtesy of Voyager Aircraft, LLC



Dick greeting Voyager Volunteers at press conference post flight.

Photo courtesy of Bob Brubaker

his retirement, Dick joined his brother, Burt Rutan, at his Rutan Aircraft Factory in Mojave, California.

As the company's chief test pilot, Dick demonstrated his aerial prowess by setting numerous world speed and distance records in the Rutan Long-EZ, a popular home-built airplane. His accomplishments in the Long-EZ earned him the 1982 Louis Bleriot Medal, awarded each year to the respective holders of the highest

records for speed, altitude and distance in a straight line.

Dick's flight skills earned him a spot in the record books again in 1986, when he commanded the first nonstop and unrefueled flight around the world with co-pilot Jeana Yeager in the Burt Rutan-designed Voyager. Against all odds, the epic voyage was the result of nearly six years of planning, hard work and preparation. A team of 99 ground volunteers handling everything from communications and weather to business concerns worked to make the flight a success. To cover the journey's 26,366 miles, Voyager was equipped with a maze of gas tanks holding more than 3.6 tons of fuel, 72 percent of the plane's takeoff weight.

For their efforts, President Ronald Reagan awarded Dick and Burt Rutan the Presidential Citizens Medal, which honors U.S. citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for the nation. Additional aviation awards include the Collier Trophy, the

History of Flight Award, the Gold Medal Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom, the Paris Aero Club's Grande Medallion and Medalle de Ville Paris and the National Aviation Hall of Fame's own Milton Caniff Spirit of Flight Award, for the Voyager odyssey. He still holds dozens of NAA/FAI aircraft world speed and distance records and has received multiple honorary degrees.

The massive publicity generated by the Voyager flight has allowed Dick to hit the speaker circuit and author the non-fiction book, "The Next Five Minutes" - spreading his message of hard work, courage and achievement to others. This commitment is further underscored by the Dick Rutan Scholarship fund, which has gifted thousands of dollars to young scholars.

Dick is still highly active in the world of aviation and currently resides in Idaho with his wife Kris. Together, they have four daughters and nine grandchildren.

2021 Howard Hughes Memorial Award Recipient



REVISION
1 DSA/SFM PLAN
DATE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Aero Club of Southern California is proud to present its first virtual Howard Hughes Memorial Event to honor Aviation Giant, Richard "Dick" Rutan.

Dick Rutan has a remarkable aviation career. He is a highly decorated United States Air Force fighter pilot, serving in the Vietnam war. Dick is known worldwide for courageously command piloting Voyager's record setting nonstop and unrefueled flight around the world. Dick continues to be involved in the aviation community and generously contributes to the next generation of aviation and aerospace professionals.

This has been a busy year for our Board of Directors. We've met often to develop and provide engaging communication via emails, social media and virtual events. We look forward to resuming our popular in-person meetings and award programs soon.

This past year's activities:

In February 2020, the Club honored Howard Hughes Memorial Award winner Capt. 'Sully' Sullenberger at the Jonathan Club. Two hundred and fifty attendees experienced a wonderful evening visiting with friends and colleagues, and meeting and taking photos with Capt. Sullenberger. The highlight of the event was watching his personal video of his and First Officer Jeffrey Skiles heroic actions which saved the lives of all 155 people aboard US Airways Flight 1549. The audience was captivated by Capt. Sullenberger's medal acceptance, inspirational speech and answer to audience questions. It was the Aero Club's last in-person event and truly an evening to remember.

The Aero Club donated \$5000 to our partner Flight Path Learning Center for its continued support. Flight Path museum provides a permanent home to our beautiful Howard Hughes Memorial Trophy, allowing the public to view our beautiful trophy.

We funded our annual Aero Club Student Scholarship program in November 2020. Our scholarship program is a gateway to rewarding aviation and aerospace careers. Director Julie Sims and the Scholarship Committee selected high school and college students studying aviation and aerospace fields from a highly competitive field of candidates.

Documentarian Joshua Lang's production company Mechanical Dragon LLC, received an Aero Club \$10,000 grant to develop his film *The Mechanician*. This film chronicles mechanic and designer Charles Taylor who developed the original Wright Flyer's engine.

The Aero Club was founded to increase the public's awareness of aviation and aerospace. All Aero Club programs and activities are made possible by the dedicated support of our Board of Directors and the Executive Leadership Committee members. Their all-volunteer efforts made a big difference in our club's continued operations. Thanks to the Board's Executive Leadership, the Aero Club remains financially solid and will be able to sustain these programs into the future. We appreciate the continued support of our members and our sponsors.

We continue our efforts to make your membership experience beneficial. Please support us by continuing your membership and, if you are not a current member, please join us. We appreciate your tax-deductible donations to our non-profit organization to ensure our future success.

William C. Withycombe
President

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

WELCOME

William Withycombe
President

AERO CLUB HISTORY

William Withycombe

INTRODUCTION

William Withycombe
President

INTRODUCTION

George Butts
Vice President and Membership Chair

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2020 Aero Club Scholarship Recipients

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Julie Sims
Scholarship Chair

INTERVIEW

**Honoree Richard 'Dick' Rutan
and Michael Machat**

AWARD PRESENTATION

William Withycombe

RESPONSE

Richard 'Dick' Rutan

MEMBERSHIP & SPONSOR THANK YOU

George Butts

CLOSING

William Withycombe

THANK YOU

Richard 'Dick' Rutan,

Aero Club Administrator **Bob Smith**, Howard Hughes Memorial Award Chair **Suzanne Fuentes**
Event Producer **Jen Cullen Williams**, Film Production Mazloy's **Chris Mazurk and Mike Rhodes**
and Studio Printing's **Ed Su**.



Aero Club Leadership

William Withycombe
President

George Butts
VP, Membership Chair

Arthur W. McAllister
Treasurer

Denise Jennings
Secretary

J. Bruce Camino
Communications Director

Julie Sims
Scholarship Chair

Christopher Celtruda
Programs Chair

Suzanne Fuentes
HHMA Chair

Board Members

Michael Barr

Patrick Carey

Ramona Cox

Robert Ettinger

Grant Firestone

Thomas Heinsheimer

Alvin Leung

Michael Machat

Charles May

Jack Norris

Raymond Wolfe

David Zabalaoui

Non-voting Members

Robert E. Lyon
Legal Counsel

Robert E. Smith
Administrator

The Howard Hughes Memorial Award



The Howard Hughes Memorial Award, created in 1978, is presented annually by the Aero Club of Southern California to an aerospace leader whose accomplishments over a long career have contributed significantly to the advancement of aviation or space technology. The Award was a tribute to Hughes by his first cousin William R. Lummis, chairman and CEO of Summa Corporation.

The 42 recipients, who are pictured above, are a veritable "hall of fame" of industry achievers and luminaries.

The permanent trophy, housed in the Flight Path Learning Center & Museum at LAX, is a globe and vehicle sculpture with the names of

recipients engraved on its base. A solid silver medallion, cast from silver from Hughes' Nevada mines, is presented to each Honoree. It depicts Hughes from the era when he was designing and flying his famed Flying Boat, setting world records, dressed in his familiar brown fedora, open shirt and two-toned sports jacket. The reverse side signifies aspects of Hughes' varied life—the oil drilling bit, a reel of film, a landing falcon, the state of Nevada, the earth with a circle of stars symbolizing his round-the-world record, the first communications satellite and the Flying Boat as it crested the waves of Long Beach Harbor.

Captain Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger, Awarded 2020 HHMA



Captain Sullenberger sharing his experience and philosophies with his audience.



Captain Sullenberger's introduction.



Captain Sullenberger receiving the Howard Hughes Memorial Award from Aero Club Vice President George Butts & President William Withycombe.

The 2020 Howard Hughes Memorial Award banquet honoring Captain Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger was a sold out and memorable evening held at the downtown Los Angeles Jonathan Club. Captain Sullenberger captivated the audience with his personal account of, along with First Officer Jeffrey Skiles, guiding US Airways Flight 1549, to an emergency water landing in New York City's frigid Hudson River on January 15, 2009.

Capt. Sullenberger's enthusiastic audience members ranged from twelve to ninety years old and traveled from multiple

states to attend. He graciously greeted and took photos with attendees prior to the evening's award ceremony.

The program began with Captain Sullenberger's personal water landing reenactment video. After his introduction and receiving his Howard Hughes Memorial Award medallion, he shared his philosophy on leadership, training, aviation safety and answered questions, to his audience's delight. Our evening ended with President William Withycombe thanking Captain Sullenberger, Aero Club members, attendees and all who helped produce the event.

In Memoriam



John Durant (left) and Nissen Davis (right) with the HHMA trophy.



John Durant



Nissen Davis

The Aero Club of Southern California suffered two tremendous losses this past year with the passing of Board Members Nissen Davis and John Durant. Nissen and John were accomplished gentlemen, committed to the Aero Club and contributed greatly to its success. We miss them.

Nissen Davis was Emeritus Advisor to the Aero Club of Southern California. He served several terms as Aero Club President, was Howard Hughes Memorial Award Chairman, Flight Path Museum at LAX Board Member, California Aviation Hall of Fame Selection Committee Chairman and Aerospace Historical Society Board Member.

Nissen was born in 1933 in South West Africa, now Namibia, and worked as a reporter and advertising executive in South Africa before emigrating to the United States in 1961.

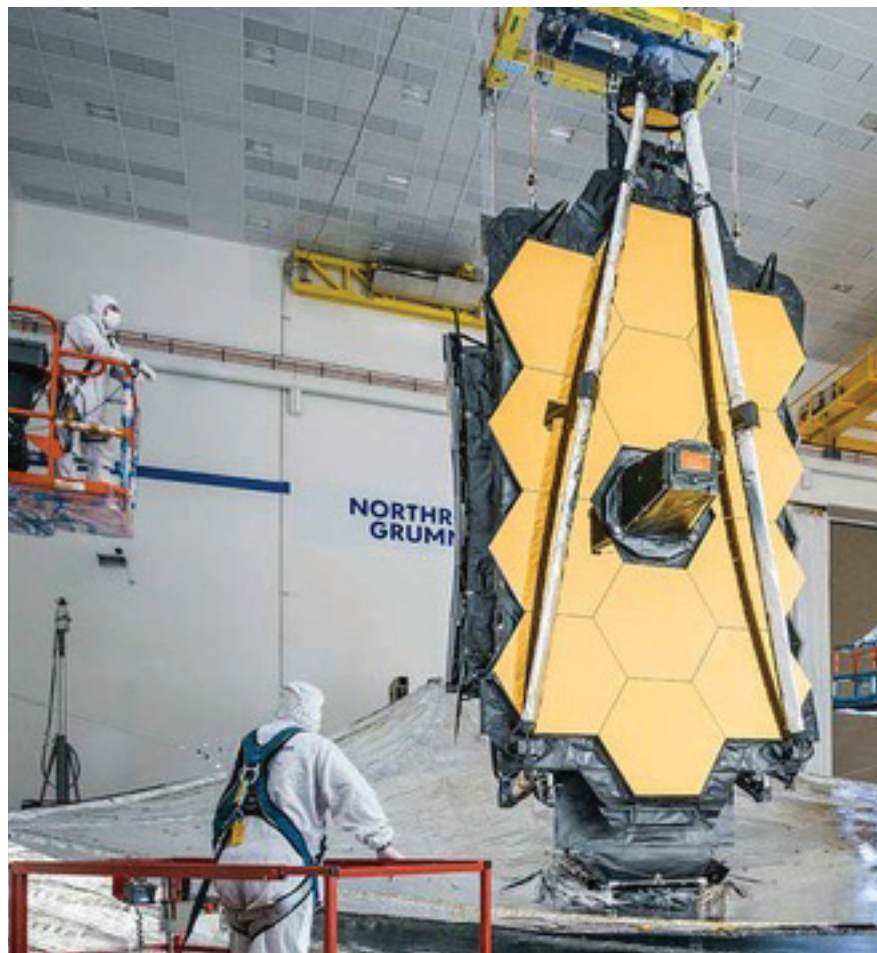
His American career included Wynn Oil Company Publicity & Racing Manager, J. Walter Thompson L.A. PR Director, Peace Corps Public Affairs Director, Flying Tiger Line VP Public Relations, Welton Becket Associates Sr. PR VP, McDonnell

Douglas, Long Beach, Director of Communications, and Hughes Electronics Communications Director.

John Durant was a longtime Aero Club of Southern California Director and ACSC's Scholarship Committee Chairman. John always had a smile on his face and a laugh to follow. He served as steward during the Aero Club sponsored 1989 Gordon Bennett Balloon Races in Palm Desert. John was an active Experimental Aircraft Associations Chapter 1 and 376 member, and Central Valley Aviation Association past President and Director.

John was born in Massachusetts in 1927 and made his first solo flight at age 16. He served in WWII with the 9th Air Force in Europe and actively participated in the Berlin Airlift for fifteen months.

He worked many years on Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle program contracts at NASA facilities including Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Cape Kennedy, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Edwards Air Force Base, Goddard Space Flight Center, and European Space Agency. John retired as International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation Division Director of Personnel and Contracts.



**SUPPORT AVIATION & AEROSPACE
AS AN AERO CLUB MEMBER**

*The Aero Club is a
501 (3) (c) tax-exempt
charity, with proceeds
going toward the Club's
scholarship programs.*

Visit the ACSC website:
www.AeroClubSoCal.org

Destiny Equity Partners, LLC

Volare Altus

**Congratulations to Dick Rutan !
2021 Howard Hughes Memorial Award
Recipient**



**Advisory and Co-Investment for Global Private
Equity**

Aerospace | Defense | Industrial
www.destinyequitypartners.com

Aero Club of Southern California Awards \$40,000 in STEM Scholarships to Seven High School and College Recipients!

Over the past 40 years, \$484,000+ in scholarships awarded to 190 students.



William Withycombe, Aero Club President and Aero Club Director of Scholarship Programs Julie Sims with Aero Club Scholarship recipients Owen Colombo (1) and Trinity Parascandola (2).

The Aero Club of Southern California's scholarship program began 40 years ago when our club acquired the Spruce Goose and displayed it in the Geodesic dome at Long Beach.

In 2020, Aero Club Scholarship Program Director Julie Sims and the Scholarship Program Committee awarded \$40,000 to seven students selected for their academic achievements and aero/astro-related activities.

The Aero Club's Annual Meeting and Scholarship Award night was held at Flight Path Museum & Learning Center on November 11, 2020 and broadcast virtually.

This year high school scholarship recipients were awarded \$4000 and college scholarship recipients were awarded \$7000.

\$4000 High School Scholarship Recipients

Owen Colombo - Marsha Toy scholarship.

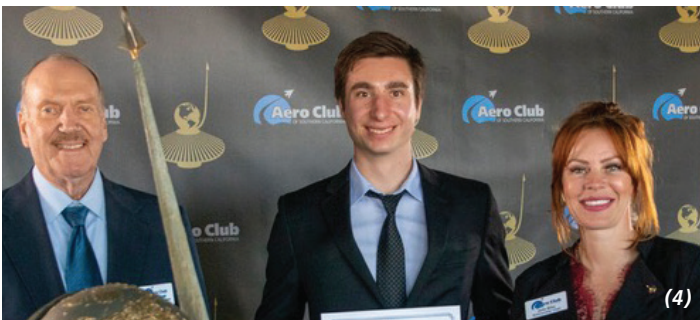
Owen has been accepted into California Baptist University where he will major in Aviation Flight and plans to apply for the US Coast Guard Pre-Commissioning Initiative officer training program. His goal is to become a US Coast Guard pilot after graduating with his bachelors' degree in Aviation.



(3)



(5)



(4)



(6)

William Withycombe, Aero Club President and Aero Club Director of Scholarship Programs Julie Sims with Aero Club Scholarship recipients Jack Tian (3), Drew Hudock (4), Nicholas Papp (5), and Breece Phipps (6).

Trinity Parascandola - Marsha Toy Scholarship

Trinity is a senior at El Segundo High School where she has been taking AP and Engineering Honors classes. Her goal is to major in engineering with a focus on Astrophysics or Astronomy.

Jack Tian - Marsha Toy Scholarship

Jack is a senior at Troy High School. He has a 4.8 GPA and started an organization to introduce students to STEAM.

\$7000 College Scholarship Recipients

Drew Hudock - Jack Real Scholarship

Drew is a senior at the University of Southern California where he is studying Aerospace Engineering. Last year, Drew was the structures lead for the AIAA Design-Build Fly Competition. In this role, he led the design, analysis, and testing of the main structural components for the RC plane. Drew and his team earned 1st place.

Loren Newton - Nissen Davis Scholarship

Loren is working on his Master's Degree in aeronautics and astronautics at Stanford University.

Nicholas Papp - William Schoneberger Scholarship

Nicholas is a 4th year aerospace engineering student at California Polytechnic University, Pomona. His goal is to one day work on space craft that will take human life to Mars. Last summer, he interned with the NASA Technology Transfer Office where he was tasked to commercialize a NASA wireless flight sensor and avionics system. He led a team of five engineers in a mock conceptual design of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket in his Systems Engineering class.

Breece Phipps - John Durant Scholarship Award

Breece is enrolled at USC pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering. With a team of accomplished engineers, he has been performing data analytics on the residential solar systems to evaluate their efficacy and efficiency. He developed a solar irradiance dashboard with the programs resulting in a sufficient degree of confidence with data analysis and computations for an alternative course of action.



Flying around the globe
without stopping or refueling
is impossible. Until it's not.

**Congratulations to Dick Rutan,
recipient of the 2021 Howard Hughes
Memorial Award**