Engineer of the Year

Dr. John. C. Houbolt 1988-1989



Dr. John C. Houbolt is a member of the Hampton Roads Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Dr. Houbolt's professional career spans 48 years in which he has seen service in Government, in private industry and also as a private consultant. during this time span he has been internationally recognized for his expertise in structural dynamics, aeroelasticity, space flight and mathematics, and for his general versatility in providing the concept of a Lunar Orbit Rendezous and Lunar Landing Module that permitted the United States to land men on the surface of the Moon and return them safely to Earth, to planning and supervising alterations to the rotors of Jacques Cousteau's research sail boat.

After spending his childhood in Joleit, Illinois, Dr. Houbolt received his Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Civil Engineering in 1940 and 1942, respectively, from the University of Illinois and a Doctorate degree in Technical Sciences from ETH, Zurich, Switzerland in 1957.

At present, Dr. Houbolt is an Associate with Eagle Engineering, Inc. On his first assignment to assist Aeritalia of Italy in its space endeavors he discovered new generalized laws pertaining to space trajectories; laws that have apparently lain dormant and unrecognized for decades and which, when applied, can provide significant benefits to the National space effort. He continues to be active as a noncompensated consultant for the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. He participates in, and conducts, NATO AGARD meetings and is extremely active in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, of which he is an Honorary Fellow. His involvement and contributions in civic activities and within the community include guidance and teaching of students, lecturing on aeronautics and space, and giving talks on numerous topics of timely interest to community clubs. He was the recipient of the prestigious Rockefeller Public Service Award in 1957.

Dr. Houbolt and his wife Mary, live in Williamsburg, Virginia. They have three daughters.