

Engineer
of the
Year
1992-1993
Cary R. Spitzer



Cary R. Spitzer is a member of the Hampton Roads Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Mr. Spitzer began his career at NASA-Langley Research Center in 1962. Initially, Mr. Spitzer conducted research on thermal sensors for models being tested in various wind tunnels at Langley. In 1969 he joined the Viking Project Offices as manager of Physical Properties and Magnetic Properties investigation for the unmanned Mars lander. The findings of these properties were not only a major contribution of our knowledge about Mars' landscape but they will serve as important information for the design of future Mars exploration spacecraft. Later Mr. Spitzer served as the Deputy Director for operations in the Science Analysis and Mission Planning Directorate of the Viking Flight Team and finally as Deputy Viking Project Manager for Langley Research Center Operations.

Mr. Spitzer's most recent work in digital avionics has provided technical and managerial leadership of landmark studies in all-electric transport aircraft. These studies have become the basis for design of future aircraft. For example, the second generation space shuttle and the National Aerospace Plane incorporate all-electric concepts to achieve their predicted performance and economic gains.

Mr. Spitzer's honors include being selected in 1987 as a fellow member of IEEE. He is the only member in the 32 year history of the Hampton Roads IEEE to be so honored. In 1990 Mr. Spitzer was selected as an Associate Fellow of AIAA. He received the IEEE Centennial Medal in 1984. Mr. Spitzer was awarded the 1988 Volare' Award for his worldwide accomplishments in avionics. In 1991 Mr. Spitzer was nominated for the Robert A. Collier Trophy for his work that led to the first automatic landing of a transport aircraft using a global positioning system.

Mr. Spitzer holds two patents, has published over 40 papers and was editor of the book *Viking Orbiter Views of Mars*. He is the author of *Digital Avionics Systems*, the first book in the field. This book is used as a textbook at many distinguished colleges and universities.

In addition to Mr. Spitzer's efforts towards his career, he is very involved with his church and community. He has been a member of the Williamsburg Exchange Club since 1972 and was president from 1983 to 1984. He is a member and past chairman of the Langley Colloquia Committee. He has given over 200 lectures on topics such as planetary exploration and the results of the Viking and Voyager space missions.

Mr. Spitzer and his wife, Laura, have one son, Danny, and reside in Williamsburg, Virginia.