
Biography of NEIL A. ARMSTRONG

Transcribed by JS (09/06), updated (10/07)

The following biography is from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration website, accessed September 26, 2006. The material below is in the public domain.

(see: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/armstrong-na.html>).

Note: Neil Armstrong was inducted into the Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 1997.

“NEIL A. ARMSTRONG NASA ASTRONAUT (FORMER)

PERSONAL DATA: Born August 5, 1930 in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Married. Two sons.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University; Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering from University of Southern California. He holds honorary doctorates from a number of universities.

SPECIAL HONORS: He is the recipient of many special honors, including the Presidential Medal for Freedom in 1969; the Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy in 1970; the Robert J. Collier Trophy in 1969; and the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, 1978.

EXPERIENCE: From 1949 to 1952, he served as a naval aviator; he flew 78 combat missions during the Korean War. During 1971-1979, Armstrong was professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati, where he was involved in both teaching and research. Currently serves as Chairman, AIL Systems, Inc. Deer Park, N.Y.

NASA EXPERIENCE: Armstrong joined NACA, (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics), NASA's predecessor, as a research pilot at the Lewis Laboratory in Cleveland and later transferred to the NACA High Speed Flight Station at Edwards AFB, California. He was a project pilot on many pioneering high-speed aircraft, including the 4,000 mph X-15. He has flown over 200 different models of aircraft, including jets, rockets, helicopters and gliders.

In 1962, Armstrong was transferred to astronaut status. He served as command pilot for the Gemini 8 mission, launched March 16, 1966, and performed the first successful docking of two vehicles in space.

In 1969, Armstrong was commander of Apollo 11, the first manned lunar landing mission, and gained the distinction of being the first man to land a craft on the Moon and the first man to step on its surface.

Armstrong subsequently held the position of Deputy Associate Administrator for Aeronautics,



NASA Headquarters Office of Advanced Research and Technology, from 1970 to 1971. He resigned from NASA in 1971.

DECEMBER 1993

This is the only version available from NASA. Updates must be sought direct from the above named individual.”

The following was printed in the January 1998 issue of Model Aviation magazine.

Neil Armstrong

“**The Academy** enjoyed an unexpected visit during the Celebration of Eagles by Neil, a longtime modeler and friend of aviation. Throughout the day, he chatted with the pioneers of modeling, helped a youngster trim a Free Flight model, and in general, recalled the days that planted the seed in his life for a career that helped shape a new frontier in aviation.

Acting within the rules governing the election to the Model Aviation Hall of Fame, Cliff Weirick, a committee member, nominated Mr. Armstrong for this award. The committee decided unanimously to approve this action.

In recognition of Mr. Armstrong’s significant contributions to model aviation as an aeromodeler and role model specifically, and to aviation advancement in general, it is a distinct honor for the Academy to induct Mr. Neil Armstrong in the Model Aviation Hall of Fame.”