

Annual Lectures

This year the Aerospace Medical Association was privileged to have two excellent speakers giving our annual keynote lectures.

49th Annual Louis H. Bauer Lecture

Tom D. Crouch, Ph.D.,
Senior Curator, Division of Aeronautics,
National Air and Space Museum,
Washington, DC.

Educational sponsorship--Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., Summit, NJ

Dr. Tom Crouch, the premier authority on the Wright brothers, provided an all too brief history of the fascinating developments which led to the Wright brothers first flights.

The lecture was given during Opening Ceremonies of the Aerospace Medical Association 74 Annual Scientific Meeting in San Antonio, TX, May 5, 2003.

Dr. Crouch told how the Wright brothers were the truest inventors of the airplane because they invented aeronautical engineering to create the process to invent the airplane. They set out to devise a control system, not an airplane. They had a talent for moving from the abstract to the concrete. As children they played with aerodynamic toys, such as the wooden helicopter toy, invented in the 13th century and unchanged today. Many other contributed to the invention of flight by studying kites and windmills, leading to the creation of the cambered surface for wings. The invention of the wind tunnel to collect data on aerodynamics further propelled the effort.

Dr. Crouch reminded us that there were four flights on December 17, 1903. The fourth one went the farthest--852 feet in 59 seconds. By comparison, the space shuttle travels approximately 290 miles in the same amount of time.

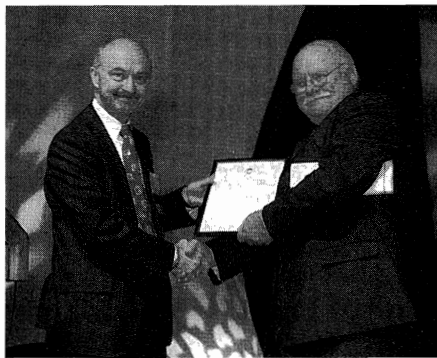
38th Annual Harry G. Armstrong Lecture

Story Musgrave, M.D.,
NASA Astronaut (retired)

Educational sponsorship--GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals, Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Story Musgrave delivered the 38th Armstrong lecture on May 8, 2003, the last day of the AsMA annual meeting, in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Musgrave was born on Orville Wright's birthday. He always wanted to fly and had a fascination with space and how it "captures the head and the heart" (Remembrance of Things Past-Marcel Proust). He talked about spacewalking--becoming the organism-becoming one with the space suit-since the space suit weighs 500 lbs. He described spacewalking as an athletic event and taking lots of practice, learning to control risk, not taking risk. He also talked about the need for gravitational direction, even when it doesn't exist. Dr. Musgrave gave a very inspirational talk on his experiences in space and shared many of the photos he took from space -a truly unique perspective.



BAUER LECTURE--Dr. Tom Crouch accepts a plaque in honor of the Bauer lecture from AsMA President, Dr. Claude Thibeault.



ARMSTRONG LECTURE--Dr. Story Musgrave receives a plaque for the Armstrong Lecture from AsMA President, Dr. Claude Thibeault.

Former AsMA President, Spurgeon Neel dies

The following is taken from: "Chopper medevac pioneer Neel dies" *By McNelly Torres Web Posted : 06/09/2003. Copyright 2003 San Antonio Express-News. Reprinted with permission.*

Widely known as the father of [Army] aviation medicine, Spurgeon Neel Jr. first championed the use of helicopters to evacuate wounded soldiers from the battlefields in Korea.

He expanded the concept in the Vietnam War, where thousand of soldiers' lives were saved by rapid transport to medical care.

The retired Army major general died Friday at a local hospital from complications of pneumonia. He was 83.

During his more than three decades of military service, Neel laid the foundation of the rotary wing aeromedical evacuation systems. He also is credited with the development of the military assistance to traffic and safety, or



NEEL--Spurgeon Neel and his wife of 63 years, Alice, with Dr. Claude Thibeault during Honors Night ceremonies.

MAST, program in San Antonio, which ended when the Baptist hospitals launched a civilian helicopter ambulance program.

He contributed to the design of the Huey helicopter that revolutionized aeromedical evacuation in Vietnam, according to the Dustoff Association, a nonprofit organization for Army Medical Department enlisted and officer personnel and aviation crewmembers.

"Dustoff evacuations" were Neel's passion, said his daughter, Leah Neel Zartarian of Falmouth, Mass.

"Maj. Gen. Neel was a great American hero whose accomplishments during his lifetime were legendary," said retired Army Col. Robert B. Romines.

In 1954, Neel became the Army's first aviation medical officer. He later helped select the new standard utility helicopter, known as UH-1 or "Huey."

Born and educated in Memphis, Tenn., Neel was commanding a medical company in Europe when World War II ended.

He was the first commanding general of the Health Services Command, now known as the U.S. Army Medical Command.

He was instrumental in the founding of the U.S. Army Medical Museum at Fort Sam Houston and served as a board chairman.

Neel has been awarded numerous honors over the years, including a Purple Heart for an injury he received during the Battle of the Bulge. He was inducted into the Dustoff Hall of Fame in 2001, and the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 1976.

[Ed Note: Dr. Neel attended the 74th Annual Scientific Meeting of AsMA with his wife Alice, where he was awarded the Louis H. Bauer Founders Award. His full biography appeared in the July issue, p. 791-2. He was an inspiration to us all and will be sorely missed.]

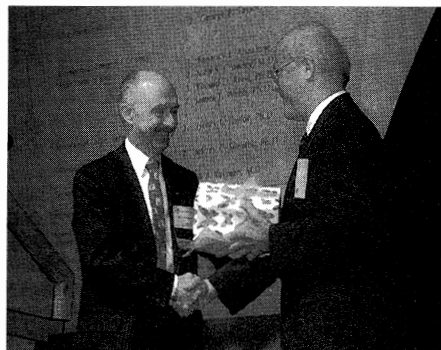
**MEDICAL GUIDELINES
FOR AIRLINE TRAVEL,
the latest edition,
published in May 2003,
is NOW AVAILABLE as a
PDF document on our website:
www.asma.org.
Click on the "Medical
Guidelines" button on the Home
Page or go to Publications and
click on Medical Guidelines.**

Opening Ceremonies of the 74th AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting, San Antonio, TX



OPENING CEREMONIES--Gateway Brass, USAF Band of the West (left), and the Brooks City-Base Color Guard (above), San Antonio, TX, performed for the opening ceremonies of the 74th Annual AsMA Scientific Meeting.

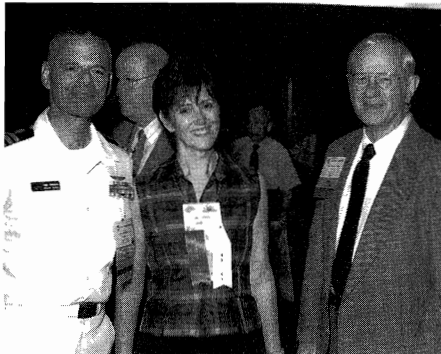
FUN RUN--(Right) The 3rd Annual AsMA Fun Run was held Monday, May 5 at 7 a.m. The following individuals were the top three runners and their times in the male and female categories. Males: P.A. Klinstrom--19:42; Steve Guyton--19:52; Christian Falyar--20:21. Females: Lilliana Cote--21:53; Evelynn Yao--22:20; Kathryn Hughes--23:30. Husnu Onus, representing Environmental Tectonics Corporation presented the trophies during Opening Ceremonies. Those present are pictured here. Of special note, Dr. Lorenzo Vargas from the Peruvian Air Force was the oldest runner--he turned 74 years old the day of the race!



SPECIAL PRESENTATION--Tom Clark of Thomas S. Clark Associates received a special present in honor of his many years of service to the Association. Dr. Thibeault made the presentation during Opening Ceremonies. Tom, who is retiring this year, had been AsMA's Exhibit Manager since the late 1970s.



Dr. Robert McMeekin, Claude Thibeault, Peach Taylor, and Russell Rayman listen to the band during opening ceremonies.



Program Chair, Andy Bellenkes and his wife Susi join former AsMA assistant director, Richard Trumbo during the ceremonies.