

Aerospace Medical Association

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News

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AEROSPACE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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DR. BERRY, NASA'S SPACE PHYSICIAN, RECEIVES 1966 LOUIS H. BAUER FOUNDERS AWARD

The LOUIS H. BAUER FOUNDERS AWARD was established by Eaton Laboratories Division of the Norwich Pharmacal Company to honor Doctor Bauer, the founder of the Aerospace Medical Association. It is given annually for the most significant contribution in space medicine.

The 1966 Louis H. Bauer Founders Award was presented to Dr. Charles A. Berry, Chief of Center Medical Programs for the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston. Dr. Berry is one of the best known aerospace specialists, through his frequent television and radio appearances during all of the nation's successful Gemini manned space flights. His duties and responsibilities as Director of Medical Operations at MSC, and as the astronauts' physician have been well documented.

A veteran of 15 years of military service, Dr. Berry resigned his commission in the U.S. Air Force, where he had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in order to continue in the position as Director of Medical Operations to which he had been assigned on loan from the Air Force in July, 1962. The reclassification of the office as a Civil Service post was felt to be necessary to assure continuity of personnel in NASA's medical programs.

Doctor Berry received his medical degree from the University of California Medical School in San Francisco in 1947. After serving a rotating internship with the University of California Service at the San Francisco City and County Hospitals, he entered the private practice of medicine for the next three years. He entered military service in 1951, serving first at Hamilton AFB, California, and entered the Aviation Medicine residency training program in September of that year. He received his Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, Cum Laude, in 1955. In 1956, Dr. Berry was assigned as assistant Chief of the Department of Aviation Medicine at the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph AFB, Texas, and

in 1958, he became chief of the Department of Flight Medicine. During this period, he participated in the selection of the original seven astronauts. Assigned to the Aerospace Medicine Division in the Office of the Surgeon General, USAF, in 1959, Dr. Berry was selected as an Aeromedical Monitor for the Project Mercury operations, and served as prime monitor at the Canary Island, Bermuda and Cape Kennedy sites and trained other medical monitors at these locations.

A Diplomate in Aerospace Medicine of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, Dr. Berry is a Fellow in Aerospace Medicine, and of the American College of Preventive Medicine, and an Associate Fellow of the American College of Physicians. An elected member of the Aerospace Medical Association's Executive Council serving a three-year term of office, Dr. Berry is also the 1965-66 Chairman of the Association's Space Medicine Branch, and was Chairman for the Scientific Program for the 37th Annual Scientific Meeting this year.

Dr. Berry is rated as a Senior Flight Surgeon, and has been awarded numerous medals and citations. Included among these are several World War II medals, the USAF Certificate of Achievement, the AMA Special Aerospace Medicine Honor Citation, and in 1961, the Arnold D. Tuttle Award of the Aerospace Medical Association for his articles on original research published in Aerospace Medicine. In September, 1965, Dr. Berry was presented the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Exceptional Service Medal by President Johnson "for his outstanding contributions to space medicine through his direction of and personal participation in the medical planning and control of the Gemini manned space flights which have greatly extended our knowledge of man's capabilities in space".

Dr. Berry's contributions to space medicine are of such magnitude and are so well known to both the aerospace community as well as to the average citizen, that the title of "Mr. Space Medicine" aptly describes his abilities, and makes him eminently qualified to be the recipient of the Louis H. Bauer Founders Award.