

Biography

Cary R. Spitzer

Cary R. Spitzer is a graduate of Virginia Tech and George Washington University. After service in the Air Force he joined NASA Langley Research Center.

During the last half of his tenure at NASA he focused on avionics. He was the NASA manager of a joint NASA/Honeywell program that made the first satellite-guided automatic landing of a passenger transport aircraft in November 1990. In recognition of this accomplishment, ARINC, ALPA, AOPA, ATA, NBAA, and RTCA nominated him jointly for the 1991 Collier Trophy "for his pioneering work in proving the concept of GPS aided precision approaches." He led a project to define the experimental and operational requirements for a transport aircraft suitable for conducting flight experiments and to acquire such an aircraft. Today that aircraft is the NASA Langley B-757 ARIES flight research platform.

Mr. Spitzer was the NASA representative to the Airlines Electronic Engineering Committee. In 1988 he received the Airlines Avionics Institute Chairman's Special Volare Award. He is only the second federal government employee so honored in over 30 years.

He has been active in the RTCA, including serving as chairman of the Airport Surface Operations Subgroup of Task Force 1 on Global Navigation Satellite System Transition and Implementation Strategy, and Technical Program Chairman of the 1992 Technical Symposium. He was a member of the Technical Management Committee. Presently he is chairman of SC-200, Modular Avionics.

In 1993, Mr. Spitzer founded AvioniCon, an international avionics consulting firm that specializes in avionics systems architectures, strategic planning, business development, and in-house training.

Mr. Spitzer is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He received the AIAA 1994 Digital Avionics Award, an IEEE Centennial Medal, and an IEEE Millennium Medal. He is a Past President of the IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society and Past Chairman of the IEEE United States Activities Aerospace Policy Committee. Since 1979, he has played a major role in the highly successful Digital Avionics Systems Conferences, including serving as General Chairman.

Mr. Spitzer presents one-week shortcourses on digital avionics systems and satellite-based communication, navigation and surveillance for air traffic management at the UCLA Extension Division. He has also lectured independently and for the International Air Transport Association.

He is the author of Digital Avionics Systems, the first book in the field, republished by Blackburn Press, and Editor-in-Chief of the Avionics Handbook, published by CRC Press.

He and his wife, Laura, have a son, Danny.

His hobbies are working on old Ford products and kite flying