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NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

1512 H Street, N. W.

Washington 25, D. C.

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NACA AWARDS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL TO DR. JOHN F. VICTORY

The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics today conferred its highest award on its Executive Secretary, Dr. John Francis Victory. The Committee presented its Distinguished Service Medal to its first employee, whose civil service career covers almost 50 years.

The award was given at a meeting of the Committee in Washington by Dr. James H. Doolittle, Chairman. The award citation reads:

"John Francis Victory for almost a half-century has devoted himself unflinching to the advancement of aeronautics. Since June 23, 1915, when he became its first employee, he has vigorously supported the programs, policies and objectives of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Throughout these years, he has given service of a high order to the NACA and has administered responsibilities of steadily increasing importance. For the past thirteen years, he has served the Committee as Executive Secretary with special zeal. Even while discharging these duties with great honor and integrity, he has been a tireless leader in the promotion of public interest for and support of aviation."

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Dr. Victory, who has been Executive Secretary of the NACA since 1945, aids the NACA Director in the administration of research facilities valued at more than \$350,000,000 and an annual operating budget over \$100,000,000. The NACA, established by Congress in 1915, soon will be absorbed in the formation of the new National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Dr. Victory rose to his high rank in the career civil service from a beginning in December, 1908, as a messenger in the Patent Office on a temporary job. He was later hired permanently in the Washington Navy Yard, where he was a secretary, when the NACA was established March 3, 1915.

He was the first employee of the NACA, being appointed on June 23, 1915, and has had continuous service since that date. He was named Assistant Secretary of the Committee in 1917, and Secretary in 1927.

Throughout his career, he has taken a leading part in the promotion of aeronautics. For many years he was NACA's spokesman before Congressional committees, other government offices and industrial and civic organizations. He has been active in the National Aeronautic Association for 32 years and is now a vice president. He designed and secured endowment of the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy. In 1955 he conceived and executed a plan whereby the National Aeronautic

Association established the honorary category of Elder Statesmen of Aviation. For many years he has been a member of the Committee which awards the Collier Trophy, the highest ranking award in aviation.

He has been active in many other aeronautical and civic groups. For his services in World War II he received the Presidential Medal for Merit for "extraordinary fidelity and exceptionally meritorious conduct."

Born in New York City in 1892, Dr. Victory has lived most of his life in Washington, where he resides with his wife and daughter. He has two sons, living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He holds the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Laws from Georgetown University, and the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Norwich University.