

JEROME B. HAMMACK

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JEROME B. (JERRY) HAMMACK, 85, passed away on August 20, 2007. Mr. Hammack was born on May 2, 1922 in Randolph County, Georgia. He was the son of William D. and Gussie Beauchamp Hammack of Randolph County. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Adelin Worrill Hammack, two sons and their wives, Charles and Jit; Patrick and Marlene; two

grandchildren; Christopher and Rachel. Jerry Hammack grew up on a farm in south Georgia, most of which is still in the family, went to Georgia Tech and obtained a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. After graduation he went to work for Douglas Aircraft Company but was soon drafted into the Army Air Corps enlisted reserve and put on duty at Lanley Field, Virginia, serving with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). After being discharged from the Army Air Corps, he elected to stay with NACA as an aeronautical research engineer. NACA became National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in October 1958 and Mr Hammack became involved with space programs being one of 35 persons to start what is now the Johnson Space Center. In the early days of NASA he was a co-inventor of the Mercury space capsule, the first U.S. entry into manned space flight. He and his family moved with the forerunner of the Johnson Space Center to Houston in 1963 where he lived the rest of his life. At NASA he held key positions in the Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, and Shuttle programs. He retired from NASA as Chief of the Safety Division in August, 1987 and went to work with Hernandez Engineering becoming Director of Engineering and a member of the board of directors. He was awarded many honors for his work including NASA's Exceptional Service Award (2), Jerome Lederer Pioneer Safety Award as well as many others. He is a senior member of the International Academy of Astronautics and honorary member of the IAASS. He is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Space Center and a member of St. John's Episcopal Church. In his later years, besides tending to his farm in South Georgia, Jerry was a avid model airplane builder and flyer. His mentor and instructor was Randy Stone, a lifelong colleague and friend. A visitation will be from 5:00 to 8:00 PM August 24, 2007 at Crowder Funeral Home in Webster, Texas. His funeral will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in La Porte, Texas on

August 25, 2007 at 4:00 PM.

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