Abraham E. Karem

President and Founder
Karem Aircraft, Inc.
Lake Forest, California

For a lifetime of innovative fixed and rotary wing unmanned vehicle designs.

Karem's 50-plus year career in aerospace has consistently demonstrated his innovative mindset, technical acuity, perseverance, and leadership. Among his two greatest technical accomplishments are the development of the Predator UAV, the first reliable and successful long-endurance unmanned vehicle; and the development of the A160 Hummingbird, the first helicopter to use a variable speed rotor system successfully, which greatly improved rotor efficiency and performance in all types of operating environments.

Among Karem's other accomplishments were his development of the Albatross UAV system, the Amber UAV system, the Gnat 750 UAV, and the Prowler UAV system. Karem's current work is in the field of Optimum Speed Tilt-rotors (OSTR) in an effort to create a Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) machine with the payload and range capabilities of commercial transports.

Additionally, Karem has shown great ability to develop and nurture successful engineering teams, many of whom have gone on to become leaders in their respective fields of endeavor.

Karem's previous honors include the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' 2011 Spirit of St. Louis medal; the 2011 Phillip J. Klass Lifetime Achievement Award from Aviation Week's Laureate Awards; the National Engineering Council's 2009 Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson Award; and the American Helicopter Society's 2008 Alexander Klemin