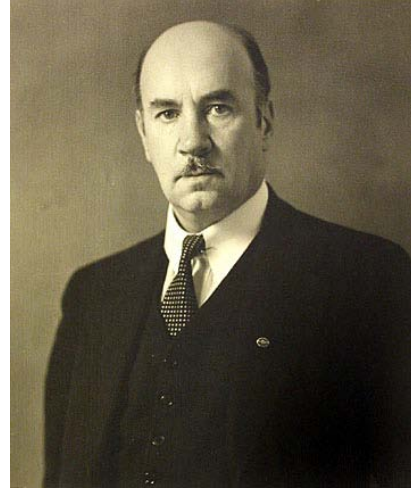


### MEDALIST FOR 1951

*For a lifetime of outstanding contributions to aeronautics, including pioneering with multi-engine airplanes, flying boats, amphibians and helicopters.*



IGOR IVAN SIKORSKY

Igor Ivan Sikorsky, destined to become world-famous for his rotary-wing aircraft and large-scale multi-engined airplanes and flying boats, was born May 25, 1889, in Kiev, Russia. Graduating from the Naval College in Petrograd in 1906, he went to Paris to study engineering, returning a year later to continue his education at the Mechanical Engineering College of the Polytechnical Institute in Kiev.

During 1909-1910 he designed and built his first and second helicopters. The following three years Sikorsky constructed several types of airplanes and taught himself to fly. Of his early aircraft, the S-6 received the highest award during the Moscow Aviation Exhibition in 1912, and later the same year took first prize in a military competition in St. Petersburg. In 1913 he designed, built and successfully piloted the first four-engined airplane ever produced. He designed and built several four-engined bombers during 1914-1917, the first large aircraft successfully used during World War I.

After the Russian Revolution of 1917 he went to France, to build large bombers for the French Government. Following the Armistice he came to the United States. In 1923 the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Corporation was organized here, and in 1924 completed a successful twin-engine, eighteen-passenger, all metal cabin land-plane, the S-29A. More new types of airplanes followed, among them the S-38, first successful twin-engine amphibian. This aircraft carried the first airmail between continental United States and the Panama Canal, and was extensively used by several American airlines in pioneering and establishing South American, Hawaiian and other passenger routes.

The company was acquired by the United Aircraft Corporation in 1929. Continuing to operate as the Sikorsky Division, in 1931 it produced for Pan American Airways the first large four-engined Flying Clipper, the S-40. Later the company produced a series of transoceanic Flying Clipper ships, of which the S-42 pioneered regular transoceanic flights from America and was

## Daniel Guggenheim Medal

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the first aircraft to carry regular mail from the United States across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

The VS-300 helicopter, built by Sikorsky in 1939, proved to be the first practical direct-lift aircraft in the western hemisphere. This helicopter virtually started the helicopter industry in the United States. There followed a series of successful helicopters of various sizes which were the first to be used by any Allied power during World War II, and which proved extremely useful during the Korean conflict. As a result, the helicopter was established as a novel and valuable type of aircraft for a great variety of military as well as commercial uses. It has also proved to be an exceptionally useful and efficient means of saving lives, under many difficult conditions.

Sikorsky retired as Engineering Manager of the Division in 1957 and died October 26, 1972.