

CITATION

JAMES STANLEY SMITHSON
Doctor of Science

JAMES STANLEY SMITHSON, you are a self-made man coming from the pioneer tradition of the Old West, and now are a modern pioneer in the conquest of space. Your grandfather rode the Pony Express through Indian country to the West from Salt Lake City; your father drove a Twenty-mule Borax Team out of Death Valley at the age of fifteen; and you were raised on a ranch in southern California near the Mexican border where, at the age of eleven, you rose before dawn to milk thirteen cows, rode a horse nine miles to school, and returned home for evening milking and other chores, with only Sunday afternoons free for boyhood pleasures. Your family moved to Los Angeles, and you graduated from Hollywood High School. Although your father wanted you to be a musician and you learned to play the violin, you found odd-job employment and went to night school to study mechanical engineering. Your career in aviation and aerospace began in 1926 when you joined Douglas Aircraft as a tracer in the drafting department. With North American Aviation since 1934, your manufacturing genius helped build the P-51 Mustang fighter, the B-25 Mitchell bomber, the F-86 Sabre jet fighter and the F-100 Super Sabre, and today you are Vice Chairman of the Board and Senior Vice President of your firm. For five years, due in large measure to your personal interest, North American has played a progressive role in the development of this community, and Concord College is proud to recognize you and your company by conferring upon you her degree of Doctor of Science.

In testimony of this degree I hand you this diploma and cause you to be invested with this hood.

Given under the Seal of Concord College, and conferred from the academic halls in Athens, West Virginia, on this fifth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven, and of the College the ninety-sixth.

Joseph Franklin Marsh, Jr.
President