

KARMAN 1963

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"Post"

Kennedy Awards Medal to Scientist

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Staff Reporter

President Kennedy yesterday presented the first National Medal of Science to Theodore von Karman, an 81-year-old Hungarian-born American citizen who has made "incomparable contributions" to aeronautics.

At a ceremony in the White House rose garden, the President said he knew of "no one who more completely represents all the areas of work" described in the 1959 act of Congress authorizing award of the medal.

The President said he was happy to present the medal "to one of the pioneers who has helped to make this new and exciting world possible."

Thanking the President, von Karman quoted Gen. H. H. Arnold, World War II chief of the air corps, as telling him he wanted him in the Pentagon to prove how important a professor could be.

Von Karman has worked primarily on mathematical analyses of aerodynamics, hydrodynamics and strength of materials—the bases for design of fast aircraft.

Long List of Awards

He has published more than 100 books and articles, is a member of scientific academies of most Western countries and has won a long list of awards and honorary degrees from American and European universities.

Von Karman is chairman of the technical advisory board of Aerojet-General Corp. and chairman of the NATO advisory group for aeronautical research and development.

A native of Budapest, von Karman became an American citizen in 1936. He was director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratories of the California Institute of Technology from 1930 to 1949.

The citation accompanying the medal said von Karman "has made incomparable contributions not only to the fields of applied mechanics, aerodynamics and astronautics, and to education in general, but also to industrial, national, international and human affairs in their broadest sense."



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This was the scene at the White House yesterday as President Kennedy presented the National Medal of

Science to Theodore von Karman. In center is Judge Victor Anfuso, a former member of Congress.