



## **CHARLES “Charlie” BOYLE**

Charlie Boyle was in the United States Air Force when he witnessed a cargo plane lose its brakes while taxiing. He had a still camera and began clicking away as the cargo plane plowed into some parked aircraft. The base photographer developed the pictures and declared, “Charlie, you have a future.”

Charlie’s future took him to Air Force Photography School. He then spent two years filming landing approaches to airports from a B-17 bomber. When he wasn’t taking pictures, the crew let him fly the plane.

Charlie’s first job as a TV news film cameraman was at KDKA in Pittsburgh. He gained notoriety for climbing high atop a bridge with his camera on two occasions. The first time, he assisted in the rescue of a would-be suicide jumper. A second rescue attempt ten years later was unsuccessful. On both occasions, Charlie recorded dramatic video that was seen worldwide.

In the 1960s, Charlie moved to Chicago to work for NBC News. He traveled the world filming everything from the Vietnam War to civil rights marches to presidential campaigns. At WMAQ-TV, Charlie won four Emmys for his cinematography. He teamed-up with producer Scott Craig (1997 Silver Circle honoree) for a documentary about Graceland Cemetery, *The Giants and the Common Men*. His other Emmys came for filming news features that appeared on *Sorting It Out*, directed by Bill Heitz (2003 Silver Circle honoree).

Charlie is a devoted aviator who continues to fly missions with the Civil Air Patrol. He once landed a seaplane next to four capsized boaters who were drifting toward a dam. They hung onto the seaplane’s pontoons until they could be pulled to safety by police in another boat. Charlie has earned several aviation awards including the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from the FAA for 50 years of safe flying. He and his wife, Tracy, have a son, Chuck, and a daughter, Linda. Charlie Boyle says he accepts the Silver Circle Honor on behalf of his entire family, especially his son, Bob, who passed away three years ago.