

AMERICA THE GREATEST®

America is the greatest nation in the world because she has allowed her citizens the opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness." Citizens such as
IGOR SIKORSKY.

- Born:** May 25, 1889 (Gemini),
the youngest of five children
in Kiev, Russia.
- Died:** October 26, 1972.
- Father:** Dr. Ivan S. Sikorsky, professor
of psychology, St. Vladimir
University, Kiev, Russia.
- Mother:** Zinaida Temrouk-Tcherkoss
Sikorsky, physician.
- Education:** Polytechnic Institute, Kiev,
Russia.
- Accomplishment:** Builder of the first successful
multi-engine plane and helicopter.



IGOR SIKORSKY

As a child of a middle class czarist Russian family, Igor became fascinated with the concepts of flight, largely through his mother's exposing him to the pictures of Leonardo Da Vinci's flying machines. His early efforts in 1909 at developing and building helicopters met with failure, since the science and technology of that era were inadequate. He then switched his efforts, and began to design and build airplanes.

By 1910, Igor built and flew his first successful plane, the S-2. The S-5, built in the summer of 1911, had a 50-horsepower engine, was able to stay airborne for over an hour, and could fly at altitudes of 1500 feet. The successful development of the S-6A led to a contract with the Russo-Baltic Railroad Car Works to supply the Russian army with planes. In 1913 he again made aviation history designing, building, and flying the first multi-engine (four-motored) airplane, called the "Le Grand."

By this time, Igor was a wealthy man; then came the Russian Revolution and he was forced to flee Russia. He came to the United States in March, 1919, with \$600 in his pocket; speaking no English, he could not find work in the depressed aviation industry following World War I.

After several lean years, he organized the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Company in 1923, with a few hundred dollars borrowed from friends. The company became immensely successful, producing larger and larger airplanes which revolutionized air travel. The company was purchased in 1929 by United Aircraft with Sikorsky continuing in charge.

By September 14, 1939, Igor Sikorsky had designed, built and was the first man to fly the first workable helicopter (the Vought Sikorsky-300); he thus created an entire new aero-industry.

A nation is as great as the sum total of the greatness of its individuals. America offers her people more opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness" than any other nation on earth. I challenge you to develop yours!

Today we honor IGOR SIKORSKY. Tomorrow could we honor you?

Dr. Michael R. Loss.

DR. MICHAEL R. LOSS

President, America The Greatest, Inc.®