Any aviator who has been launched into the air from a floating, steel platform in the middle of a vast ocean understands the deep, emotional bond between the flyer and his aircraft. In the heroic history of naval aviation, there has probably been no deeper bond than has been formed between Navy flyers and their beloved machines supplied by the "Grumman Iron Works." The rugged, dependable airplanes that the Grumman design and manufacturing teams have provided throughout the years have earned the respect and affection of generations of airmen, because no aircraft have proved to be more fearsome to their enemies or protective of their pilots. Formidable in combat, Grumman airplanes have a solid and well-deserved reputation for helping their aircrews get their jobs done, and then bringing them home safely, over trackless miles of ocean. It is a wonderful story of American ingenuity, technological prowess, and manufacturing know-how. Michael V. Ciminera, a former executive of the Grumman and Northrop Grumman companies, has played a significant role in development of many of these impressive aircraft programs, and has told his story in his new book, The Aircraft Designers, A Grumman Historical Perspective. Mike has kindly agreed to provide us with a personal narrative of this technological saga, and to answer questions about the origins, challenges, and triumphs of this great American industrial enterprise. It's a fascinating story, don’t miss it!