

NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AERONAUTIC ASSOCIATION

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NAA Announces Elder Statesmen of Aviation for 2000

Washington, DC - The National Aeronautic Association announced today that seven persons have been selected to receive the prestigious Elder Statesman of Aviation award for 2000. They are Gladys Dawson Buroker, Jack Eggspuehler, Lois Feigenbaum, Buck Hilbert, John Roach, Merv Strickler, and Kenneth Wofford.

The Elder Statesman of Aviation Award was established in 1954 to honor outstanding Americans who, by their efforts over a period years, have made contributions of significant value to aeronautics and have reflected credit upon America and themselves. Selectees must be at least 60 years of age. Nominations were solicited from hundreds of organizations and aviation leaders in the United States. The selections were made by a distinguished committee of 14 aviation leaders from all segments of the aerospace community. The awards will be presented on September 14 during the NAA Fall Awards Ceremony to be held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC.

"The selection committee had the difficult task of narrowing the slate of nominees to just seven people," stated NAA President Don Koranda. "NAA is pleased to recognize these distinguished aviators and bestow upon them the title of NAA Elder Statesman of Aviation for their contributions."

The 2000 recipients of the Elder Statesman of Aviation Award are:

Gladys Dawson Buroker – Ms. Buroker is one of the groundbreaking females in aviation and has almost 20,000 flying hours. Her flying career began in 1932 with her first lessons and she soon became involved in barnstorming, performing parachuting expositions throughout the Northwest. Eventually she purchased her own airplane and, with her husband Herb Buroker, ventured into wing walking and rides. During World War II, Gladys instructed recruits and enlisted men in flight. She and Herb eventually purchased and operated their own airport until 1990, complete with hot air balloon rides piloted by herself.

Jack J. Eggspuehler – Mr. Eggspuehler's name is synonymous with a lifelong pursuit of commercial and general aviation safety through education. Beginning his flying career in the U.S. Air Force, Jack Eggspuehler was soon an instructor and professor of aviation at Ohio State University. During his career, Jack has served as chairman of FAA's Designated Pilot Examiner's Committee. In 1967, Eggspuehler led a small group of

persons in the creation of an organization that eventually became the National Association of Flight Instructors and has also created Aerosafe, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in flight safety analysis and education. Eggspuehler has also published numerous articles and served on dozens of industry, professional, and governmental aviation committees.

Lois Feigenbaum – Ms. Feigenbaum has been a pilot for over 38 years, dedicating her time to all aspects of aviation. Lois was an early female aviator in Illinois in the early 1960s who spoke at Universities throughout the Midwest promoting the role of women in aviation. In 1972, she was appointed by President Nixon to the Women’s Advisory Committee on Aviation and was later nominated by President Reagan for the FAA Assistant Deputy Administrator for Airports. In the 1980s, Ms. Feigenbaum was appointed by India’s President Gandhi as his aviation advisor for education. Lois continues to work for the Ninety-Nines and other aviation organizations.

E.E. “Buck” Hilbert – Buck Hilbert is awarded for a lifetime of major contributions to civil, military, and sport aviation in a wide variety of professional and volunteer community, state, and international activities. Hilbert began his flying career at the age of 16 and served as an artillery spotter pilot in Korea. After Korea, Buck flew for United Airlines for 32 years. Hilbert was a founding member of the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1953 and continues to serve many functions for EAA. In addition, Buck Hilbert has served as the chairman of NAA’s Contest and Records Board, an Executive Committee member of the Association’s Board, and a representative to annual conferences of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale.

John B. Roach – Mr. Roach began his flying career during World War II with the Army Air Corps as a participant in the “Tuskegee Experiment.” At 19 years old, he graduated training as a B-25 pilot and left active duty in 1946. After the war, Roach served as a flight instructor for the Air Force Reserve primarily in military airlift aircraft. In 1969, John joined the FAA and soon became the first African American to become the Chief of an FAA Air Carrier District Office. He was subsequently appointed Deputy Regional Director for the New England Region. As a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, John continues to make more than 25 presentations a year to a variety of civic, military, educational, and professional groups.

Dr. Mervin K. Strickler, Jr. – Over the last 50 years, Merv Strickler has been involved in almost every major aviation education development project affecting the long-range growth of the aviation industry’s manpower resources. His leadership through two key positions – Director of Aviation Education of the Civil Air Patrol, and Chief of Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Education Programs – influenced administrators, teachers, and students at every grade level to successfully match sound educational principles with civilian, military, and government aviation career needs. Strickler has served on several national and international aviation education committees and has been honored with several recognitions including NAA’s Brewer Trophy for Education. He is considered by many to be the senior authority on aviation education in the United States.

Kenneth O. Wofford – In 1944, Ken Wofford entered the Aviation Cadet Training program at the Tuskegee airfield and from 1945 to 1949, Wofford was a fighter pilot in the “Black Air Force.” After the war, Ken continued with the Air Force in many roles including European command roles, Vietnam

reconnaissance flying, and air base commander. In 1972, Wofford became the Commandant for Aerospace Studies at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and retired in 1974. During his flying career, Ken was awarded many honors including the Distinguished Flying Cross. Today, Ken continues to be committed to aviation promoting and supporting the industry as a Tuskegee Airman and as an inspiring role model for today's youth.

The National Aeronautic Association is the National Aero Club of the United States and the nation's oldest aviation organization, founded in 1905. Its primary mission is the advancement of the art, sport, and science of aviation and space flight. NAA is also the United States representative to the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, the 88-country organization that oversees all aviation and space records established worldwide. NAA consists of more than 100 member organizations. NAA oversees many of aviation's most prestigious awards and trophies and is a member funded, not-for-profit association.

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