

NAA NEWS

National Aeronautic Association



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NAA Honors Seven Elder Statesman of Aviation

Arlington, VA – The National Aeronautic Association announced the winners of the 2004 Elder Statesman of Aviation awards, given this year to seven deserving Americans. Each year the award is presented to several U.S. citizens who are at least 60 years of age and have made contributions of significant value to aeronautics. "This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of men and women across America in many different disciplines," said Don Koranda, President of NAA. "We are pleased to recognize these individuals for their wonderful contributions to our industry." The 2004 recipients are:

Stanley J. Green, Silver Spring, Md., held positions in his career as an aeronautical engineer, aircraft maintenance officer, Naval Flight Officer, attorney and aviation certification specialist. Green, 71, worked for the FAA in the early 1960s and wrote the agency's regulations for the design, construction and maintenance of civil aircraft. He went on to work for the Aerospace Industries Association and the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, helping to resolve technical and legal differences between industry and government on issues including noise, emissions and airworthiness standards. Mr. Green's tireless contributions over 40 years of service helped set the standards and shaped the face of our aviation industry.

Jackie Jackson, Wildwood, Mo., is being honored for his service as a combat veteran and an experimental test pilot who played a major role in the development of jet-powered vertical flight. Jackson began his flying career in 1967 as a naval aviator, eventually earning 4 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 33 Air Medals during 660 combat missions in Vietnam. Accepted in to the United States Naval Test Pilot School, he flew numerous aircraft including the F-4, A-4 and F-8. In 1978, after retiring from the Marines, he joined McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) as a test pilot and flew many aircraft including the F-18, F-15 and the T-45. He accumulated more than 5,300 hours in the AV-8 Harrier program alone and had a major role in the success of this unique aircraft. 61-year-old Jackson was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002.

Thomas Leonard, San Jose, Ca., won for more than four decades as a dedicated collegiate aeronautic professor. After finishing his aeronautical engineering degree at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Leonard joined the faculty at San Jose State College in 1946 where he devoted his time, energy and talents to nurturing a new aviation program. At the time the department was housed in the basement of the science building, but over the years Leonard grew the program and its student enrollment to one which became known as the flagship aviation program of California. He was the driving force behind the construction of an aeronautics building completed in 1962. Leonard, now 82, retired in 1985.

David North, McLean, Va., is being honored for a distinguished career as an aviation writer and editor. After a 10-year career as a Navy pilot and another 10-year stint with Pan American World Airways, he joined *Aviation Week & Space Technology* in 1976. He has served as a writer and senior editor on a variety of topics from business flying to military aircraft, before becoming editor in chief in 1996. Now 69 years of age, North was the first western pilot to fly both the Soviet Su-27 and MiG-29 fighters. North is renowned for his ability to explain the technical side of aviation and making you feel like you're in the cockpit with him.

Andrew Pitas, Leesburg, Va., won for his 60+ years of service and dedication to the advancement of air traffic controlling services. He became a Navy Air Traffic Controller in World War II and, after his discharge from the military, went to work as a radar controller at Washington National Airport. It was during this time that he saw the need for a professional air traffic control organization and began planning for what was to become the Air Traffic Controllers Association. Established in 1956, he served as the first president of the Air Traffic Control Association. No longer an active controller, 81-year old Pitas pioneered the use of voice recordings for weather and airport information known to pilots worldwide as the Automated Terminal Information System (ATIS).

Clark "Put" Putman, Warren, Mich., is being recognized for more than 50 years as a general aviation mechanic dedicated to the safety of his customers, aircraft owners and pilots. Putman, an FAA authorized inspector, is renowned in aviation circles for his ability to diagnose and repair mechanical problems of all types. He is particularly interested in helping pilots understand their aircraft and in preventing some of the common safety problems that can occur from inadequate preflight inspections. Putman frequently consults with manufacturers in the aviation industry on product improvements and repairs. Putman, now 74, is an expert on Piper aircraft.

Barry Schiff, Los Angeles, Ca., won for his 40 plus years of work as an aviation writer and 52 years as a pilot. Schiff, 66, is a retired airline pilot with over 27,000 hours of flight time in more than 300 different types of aircraft. He is perhaps best known for his technical articles on flying and piloting technique, which have appeared in numerous aviation publications, among them AOPA Pilot magazine. In addition to authoring 11 books on aviation, Schiff was a technical advisor and on-screen personality for ABC's *Wide World of Flying*. He has every category, class and flight instructor rating issued by FAA except for "airship."

All seven winners will be honored at NAA's Fall Awards Banquet on November 8, 2004. NAA is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. For more information on NAA and its award and recognition programs, visit www.naa-usa.org.