

# NAA NEWS

National Aeronautic Association

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NAA Announces 2006 Elder Statesman Award Winners**

Alexandria, VA – The National Aeronautic Association announced the winners of seven Elder Statesman of Aviation Awards, which honors outstanding Americans over the age of 60 who have made contributions of significant value to aviation.

Frances Bera, of San Diego, was chosen for her more than 65 years service to the aviation community. The holder of multiple aviation ratings in airplanes, helicopters, and balloons, Ms. Bera received her jet rating at age 70. She has owned a flight school and aircraft sales business, and served as chief pilot and instructor on numerous occasions. She has won the all-woman transcontinental Powder Puff Derby seven times. She is a member of the Women in Aviation Hall of Fame and is listed on the Wall of Honor of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum.

Edward Boyer is a founding member and past chairman of Angel Flight America, a network of organizations that handle more than 90 percent of all charitable medical flights in the United States. A professional engineer, pilot and retired senior federal employee, Mr. Boyer is current CEO, president and a founder of Mercy Medical Airlift in Virginia Beach. He was chosen for his more than 30 years devotion to developing a comprehensive charitable air transportation system in America.

Barbara "B.J." Erickson London, who now resides in Las Vegas, was one of only four women in the Civilian Pilot Training Program at the University of Washington prior to World War II. While in college, she also worked as a mechanic on the Boeing B-17 assembly line. Throughout the war, Ms. London was a distinguished member of the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron (WASP), having been the 14th person to qualify. In 1943, she was the only woman to be awarded the Air Medal by General Hap Arnold, for meritorious achievements in aerial flight. On one occasion she completed four

transcontinental flights in five days. Her two daughters have become noted pilots in their own right.

Dr. Stanley Ross Mohler, professor emeritus at the Aerospace Medicine division of Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, was cited for his "profound and sustained impact on the scientific advancement and educational quality of aviation medicine." He became the director of the Civil Aeromedical Research Institute in 1961 and was designated 00003 in the revamped system as an FAA Aeromedical Examiner. He is co-author of "Medical Facts for Pilots", along with scores of other aviation medicine publications. As a result of his work, the world now has a legion of civilian aeromedical professionals that make up the aviation medical community.

John W. "Jack" Olcott has been president and CEO of the National Business Aviation Association, editor of Flying magazine, editor of Business and Commercial Aviation magazine, founder of General Aero Consulting, and president of the New Jersey Aviation Association. A respected figure in aviation for more than 40 years, Mr. Olcott was educated as an aeronautical engineer. Now a resident of Morristown, New Jersey, he is the recipient of numerous aviation and publishing honors. He holds an airline transport pilot license, several type ratings, and has more than 7,000 hours of flying time.

Joe Sutter, now senior advisor to Boeing Commercial Airplanes in Seattle, is best known as "the father of the 747." His more than 40 years at Boeing included not only development of one of the world's most popular aircraft, but included serving as a member of the Presidential Commission that investigated the NASA Challenger accident. Born in 1921, Mr. Sutter joined Boeing in 1946 and retired as a full-time employee in 1986. His positions in the company included aerodynamicist, chief of technology, and chief engineer. Among his numerous honors, he is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a recipient of the National Aeronautic Association's 1986 Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy. He is author of the book "747".

James A. Wilding is former president and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). In that position he left a legacy in airport management and development leading the transformation of Washington Dulles International and Washington Reagan National airports. A graduate civil engineer, Mr. Wilding joined the Federal Aviation Administration in 1959 and participated in the original planning of Dulles Airport. Following that airport's opening in 1962, he held progressively more responsible positions in the Airports division until 1987 when he transferred to become president of MWAA. His legacy in the Washington area also included economic development, land use planning, and lasting partnerships between the airports and surrounding communities. The above awards will be presented at NAA's annual Fall

Awards Banquet on November 6, 2006 in Arlington, Virginia. 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. NAA is the caretaker of several major aviation awards and it certifies all world and national aviation records set in the United States. For additional information about NAA and its mission, log on to [www.naa.aero](http://www.naa.aero).