



For Immediate Release
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CLIFF ROBERTSON,
AVIATOR AND ACTOR,
IS THE WINNER OF THE 2007
WESLEY L. MCDONALD
ELDER STATESMAN OF AVIATION AWARD

The National Aeronautic Association, the oldest aviation organization in the United States, is very proud to announce that Cliff Robertson is the winner of the 2007 Wesley L. McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Award.

The Elder Statesman Awards were established in 1954 to honor outstanding Americans who, by their efforts over a period of years, have made contributions of significant value to aeronautics and have reflected credit upon America and themselves. The award was renamed this year in honor of NAA's past chairman, Admiral Wesley L. McDonald. Previous winners have included Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmy Doolittle, Scott Crossfield and Chuck Yeager.

Robertson, a lifelong soaring fanatic, is a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) President's Council and was the founding Chairman of the EAA Young Eagles Program, a youth development initiative that has helped put more than 1.5 million future pilots into the air. The EAA's "Cliff Robertson Work Program" for young people over the age of 16 is named in his honor.

Robertson is best known for his long career as an actor in television and film, and for his Academy Award-winning performance in the 1968 film *Charly*. It is aviation, however, that has captured his imagination and his heart since childhood. The two paths have intersected many times in his career, with roles in films like *The Pilot*, *The Squadron*, and *Midway*, and Robertson has frequently used his work in the movies to support both his own vintage airplane collection and his work with the Experimental Aircraft Association.

"If you've been flying long enough and been around the poke a few times, well, I guess pretty soon they run out of people," jokes Robertson, with his signature humility. "It's hardly deserved,

but I'm highly flattered and very touched by the sentiment, and very honored to be recognized among such distinguished past winners.”

Robertson has previously received aviation awards recognizing his humanitarian flights during the Biafran Civil War and his famine-relief missions in Ethiopia.

Mr. Robertson will receive this prestigious award at NAA's Fall Awards Banquet on October, 29, 2007.

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 about our programs, please check our Web site www.naa.aero.