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## **NAA ANNOUNCES 2008 ELDER STATESMAN AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Arlington, Virginia, September 25, 2008 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) announced the recipients of this year’s Wesley L. McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Awards. Phil Boyer, Frank Brewer, Jr., Oliver R. Crawford and John T. Race will be honored at the NAA Fall Awards Banquet on Monday, November 3 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

Phil Boyer, president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association is being honored for “his work as a passionate spokesman for and defender of general aviation.” Boyer has been an avid general aviation pilot for more than 40 years and for the past 17 has been a passionate spokesman for and defender of general aviation as president of AOPA.

Frank G. Brewer, Jr., is being honored for “a lifetime of statesmanship and dedication and contributions of significant value to aeronautics.” Brewer has a long history in aviation. His family wished to honor the achievements of those involved in educating young people about aviation. The Brewer Award was first presented in 1943 and has become a prestigious honor in aviation education.

Oliver R. “Ollie” Crawford is receiving the Elder Statesman Award for his efforts as “a pilot and leader, he has been a singular and effective aviation proponent throughout his life.” He began his career in 1943 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He became a charter member of the newly-formed Air Force Association in 1946 where he advocated a strong national defense and modern U.S. Air Force. Later in his career, as

president of the Air Force Association, Crawford was instrumental in the establishment of the Air Force Memorial recently dedicated in Arlington, Virginia to honor the millions of men and women of the U.S. Air Force.

Throughout his distinguished 70 year flying career, John T. “Jack” Race “has been a respected advocate for flight safety, training and a visionary leader promoting aviation for the greater good of humanity.” In 1942, Race joined the U.S. Army Air Forces as a civilian pilot and later was commissioned as a USAAF service pilot. He flew numerous hazardous flights with high level personnel on board and in 1945, became part of history when he flew German Imperial Chief of Staff General Jodl from Hamburg Germany to Rheims France to sign the surrender documents. For his service, he was awarded the RAF Air Force Cross and the U.S. Bronze Star. He later became a pilot for Pam American World Airways and later had the honor to be Chief Pilot for Project ORBIS – a DC-8 flying eye hospital.

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. Previous winners have included Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmy Doolittle, Scott Crossfield and Chuck Yeager.

***The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering America's aerospace leadership and promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.***

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