

An Evening Honoring

Admiral Wesley L. McDonald, USN (Ret.)

including the unveiling and
awarding of the first

Admiral Wesley L. McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Award

**March 6, 2007
Army Navy Country Club
Arlington, VA**

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Admiral Wesley L. McDonald, U.S. Navy (Retired)



One of the most decorated, distinguished and respected men in the history of aviation, Admiral McDonald's accomplishments are legendary and his contributions to the National Aeronautic Association are immeasurable.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, class of 1947 the Admiral entered flight training in 1948, received his wings in 1950 and became a carrier based naval aviator who served in various staff and command positions. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1972, Vice Admiral in 1977, and Admiral in 1982 when he assumed the duties of Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Command and Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet from which he retired from military service on December 1, 1985.

Following his retirement, Admiral McDonald remained actively involved in many defense and historical related activities including Board Member of the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, U.S. Naval Aviation Museum and the Armed Services YMCA. Most notably, the Admiral served on the Board of the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) for several years and was the Chairman of the Board from 1991 to 2006. During his tenure, he led NAA through some difficult times and directed the organization to new heights and into its second century of service to the art, sport and science of aviation and space flight.

Program

Welcome and Introductions

The Elder Statesman of Aviation Award

Skip Ringo, Vice Chairman NAA

Tribute to Admiral McDonald

Al Sack, Board of Directors, NAA

Presentation of Award

Walter Boyne, NAA Chairman

History of the Elder Statesman of Aviation Award

First established in 1954 by the Board of Directors of the National Aeronautic Association (NAA), this award honors 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. Noting that Admiral McDonald epitomizes this criterion and in appreciation for a lifetime of service to Naval Aviation, NAA and American aviation, the Executive Committee of NAA unanimously agreed in January 2007 to rename the award as the Admiral Wesley L. McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Award.

