

Colorado Aviation Historical Society



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COLORADO AVIATION HALL OF FAME 1969 – 2009

The Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame was established by the Colorado Aviation Historical Society on November 11, 1969. David J. Scherer, Rocky Mountain News and Stapleton International Airport, Public Information Director presided. Earnest K. Gann, author, was the guest speaker and was introduced by the Master of Ceremonies, Jack E. Wilhite, United Airlines Capt.; and ten aviation pioneers were inducted at this first annual banquet, chaired by Alverta Wilson. The inductees were considered for the prestigious honor if their Colorado aviation had been established prior to November 11, 1918. A requirement was that the individual selected must have substantially contributed to some phase of aviation which was of great benefit to the state of Colorado.

The Honorees inducted to the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1969 were: Ivy Baldwin, Allan F. Bonnalie, Ira Boyd Humphreys, Albert E. Humphreys, Will D. "Billy" Parker, Chriss J. Peterson, Reginald Sinclair, George W. Thompson, Frank A. Van Dersarl, and Major Jerry Cox Vasconcells.

The Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame has inducted one hundred seventy four (174) Laureates; has inducted eight (8) groups for the Organization Award; and has honored sixteen (16) with Special Recognition Awards. Three honorees will be inducted at the annual banquet on October 3, 2009.

Information on the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame can be found at the Heritage Hall located at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum Web Site

40TH ANNIVERSARY HALL OF FAME, PLEASE RESERVE NOW

Save the Date:

October 3, 2009,
Saturday, 11:00 A.M.

Colorado Aviation Historical Society Banquet 40th Anniversary, Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame Guest Speaker: Col. Tom Kirk, prisoner of war, who spent five and a half (5.5) years in the "Hanoi Hilton."

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 3	Hall of Fame Banquet, Lakewood Country Club
December 4	CDOT Exhibit Opening

FLOWN WEST

WILSON V. EDWARDS, JULY 19, 1918 - AUGUST 7, 2009

A favorite Laureate has "flown west" and it's with deep sadness that we report his passing. Retired Lt. Col. William V. "Bill" Edwards, Air Force fighter pilot, was honored and inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame in 2001. He was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame, Dayton, Ohio on July 19, 2002. "Prior to the United States' entry into World War II, the 244 men of the R.A.F. American Eagle Squadrons - the 71st, 121st and 133rd - voluntarily bolstered the ranks of Great Britain's battle weary fighter pilots in the struggle to defend freedom," was inscribed on the Milton Caniff Spirit of Flight Award. He is survived by Barbara J.

Edwards, his wife; three sons, Gary, Dan and Steven; and a daughter, Dawn. Bill's first flight was at age eleven and he soloed at sixteen. He was flying vintage aircraft and he earned his pilot's license through the CPT Program flying 45 HP Luscombes. He applied to the USAAF but was turned down due to two missing molars. Knowing that Britain was at war, he applied to the RAF, was accepted and sent to Oklahoma for pilot training. It was illegal for American citizens to join the military of a warring power. He was one of hundreds of Americans who risked a \$10,000 fine, possible imprisonment and loss of citizenship to join the British Armed Services. He

(Continued next page...)

FLOWN WEST Cont.

was sent to an OTU in England, completing 37 combat operations with the last of the famed "Eagle Squadrons." In 1942, Lt. Edwards joined the USAAF with other Eagle Squadron pilots who wore the wings of both the RAF and USAAF. As a Major, he commanded the first P-51/P-38 OTU in England, providing intensive flying in all combat and weather conditions. In 1944, flying the P-51 D's, escorting bombers on deep missions into Germany, his mustang was hit by German "88" flack and downed near the French and German border. He spent the remainder of the war as a POW at Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany.

After the war he spent 27 years in the U.S. Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force, serving in Germany, France, Malta, Yugoslavia and several bases in the U.S. He retired from the Air Force in 1968, after 26 years of exemplary service. His medals include the American Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart.

The love of flying was a life-long passion for Bill. He obtained his civilian flight instructor ratings at the Peterson AFB Aero Club, teaching several hundred people how to fly. As an instructor at Meadowlake Airport, he taught Lieutenants in the Air Force's 50 Hour Introductory/IFT Program, achieving 100% passing rate for all his flight students. Bill logged in excess of 12,000 flying hours and more than 8,000 as an instructor.

Col. Edwards, as President of the Eagle Squadron Association, chose the USAF Academy Library as their official archive and depository of their papers, log books, photos and memorabilia. The last gathering for the Eagles was covered by Aeroplane Magazine (UK) in March 2007. It was held at the San Diego Air and Space Museum on October 20, 2006. The reunion was the 40th since the Association was formed in 1967. In 1986 they visited Britain for the dedication of the Eagle Squadron Memorial in front of the American Embassy in London's Grosvenor Square; and in 1996 for a reunion at Cambridge to coincide with the annual Flyings Legends Air Show at Duxford.

The Colorado Aviation Historical Society is deeply grateful to Col. Edwards, who arranged for the donation of a rare Eagle Squadron Uniform with patches and medals, from the late Eagle Squadron Pilot Donald A. Young, 121st Squadron. It is on exhibit at the Heritage Hall, located in the Wings Museum. We wish to acknowledge CAHS member, Truman Hall, Sponsor of Col. Edwards to the Hall of Fame and for information for this article.

Bea Khan Wilhite, Director



**MIG17 Red Storm Air Shows
Col. Bill & Barbara Edwards
Col. Jack & Bea Wilhite**



Eagle Squadron Uniform worn by Col. Jack Wilhite.



(Others who have "Flown West" can be found on page 5.)

COL. THOMAS H. KIRK JR

You've heard of Tom Kirk, in our opinion, a real American Patriot and Hero. The "late" Rocky Mountain News carried a front page story on Saturday, June 21, 2008, "From Hanoi to Minnesota" and "McCain's (John) Hanoi Hilton Cellmate."

Tom Kirk spent 5 1/2 years in Hoa Lo Prison in Vietnam, the infamous "Hanoi Hilton." For more than three (3) years he was a POW in solitary confinement in North Vietnam.

He was commissioned in the U.S Air Force immediately upon graduation from the Virginia Military Institute in 1950 and completed pilot training a year later. In Korea, he flew 55 combat missions as a T-6 "Mosquito" pilot and in the F-86. Following Korean service, he flew F-86, F-84, F-100 and F-104 fighters as a line pilot, Flight Commander, and Squadron Operations Officer in various fighter units. From 1953 to 1966, he had completed 166 combat missions. On October 28, 1967, while leading the largest mission of the war, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire over Hanoi, North Vietnam. He parachuted from his burning F-105 and was captured by the enemy. He was released at war's end on March 14, 1973, and was returned home. "It was a horrible experience, we were doing what we believed in, and we were blessed to come home."

Tom's military awards and decorations include the Air Force Cross, three Silver Stars, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Legion of Merit, 9 Air Medals and the Purple Heart. We are deeply honored that Col. Tom Kirk will join us at the 40th Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet.



PATSY M. BUCHWALD - HALL OF FAME

Patsy was born and educated in Demorest, Georgia, a small foothills town. She arrived in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1984, having traveled nationwide in search of a home for herself and her two year old son Brian. Her husband, Tim Buchwald, a businessman and pilot had recently succumbed to cancer after only four years of marriage. Colorado Springs was perfect for a home. Patsy purchased a partnership in the Aviators Mart, a News and Gift Shop Concession at the airport. Patsy's forte is in business and in fundraising. She has found it expedient to share her passion, knowl-

edge and her resources in business, combined with her interest in aviation, to benefit the community in a variety of ways.

In 1985, she joined the Pikes Peak 99s International Organization of women pilots, becoming involved in fund raising and in mentoring women in aviation. That same year, she became involved as a volunteer with the Balloon Classic, a successful balloon race across Pikes Peak, which began in 1977. Patsy earned her Pilot Rating in 1986, however, she doesn't fly as a pilot. Instead, she developed an avid interest in aviation business and

PATSY M. BUCHWALD - HALL OF FAME (Cont.)

activities. Patsy and the 99s created a balloon patch for the Girl Scouts. She also became the first woman to serve on the Colorado Springs Airport Advisory Commission in 1994, and became Chairperson in 1996. Her interest and enthusiasm in the Balloon Classic Race led to her ownership in 1996, when she also became President and CEO of Colorado's largest hot air balloon festival, the Colorado Springs Balloon Classic Inc. dba Colorado Balloon Classic, a for profit business. Patsy Buchwald has received many business accolades and awards for her success in its operation and success. Thousands of people attend the event every Labor Day weekend, as it raises money and awareness for non-profits and charities and provides free family entertainment.



DAVID L. EBERSHOFF - HALL OF FAME

Dave developed his vision of flying at a very young age, which evolved into his personal dream of becoming a pilot. Born in Marion, Indiana, with a "can do" attitude, he was gifted with a drive and a life-long passion to excel, in academics, sports, entrepreneurial business endeavors and flying. An underlying factor was to help others, and to plant the seeds of learning, particularly with youth. He soloed in eight (8) hours and earned his private pilot license in 1969. He spent six (6) months with an older pilot, an A & P, and together they worked on a 1945 108-3 Stinson. Dave learned maintenance and restoration skills; he later purchased the aircraft and finished the restoration. In 1976, he attended the first of twenty two (22) uninterrupted journeys to the EAA Convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he met Lamar Steen (HOF 1990), inventor of the Skybolt, known as the Steen Skybolt. Dave wanted an aircraft which could accommodate his 6 foot 8 inch frame; with help from an aeronautical engineer, work began to redesign the Steen Aero Labs plans, taking weight out of the fuselage to allow for maximum high performance flying. In 1980, Dave test flew the



Ebershoff/Steen Skybolt N360HP.

Dave flew more than one hundred (100) Air Show performances during twelve (12) years as Rocky Mountain Thunder, from California to Kansas and Arizona. He logged more than 4500 hours as a pilot in command in thirty (30) different aircraft. He was instrumental in solving major parts problems with aerobatic airplanes - structurally, and aerodynamic and performance related issues. He was elected by ICAS, International Council of Airshows, as a designated Air Show Certification Evaluator (ACE) for the FAA for eight (8) years. In 2003, the Steen Skybolt and Trust Funds for Scholarships were designated for the Colorado Aviation Historical Society. Study in Aeronautical Engineering and Aerobatics, or Mechanical Engineering, would dictate rules and selection of worthy students. Dave is a member of Aviation for Kids; Quiet Birdmen; EAA; helped found JAA (Jeffco Aviation Association; Lifetime Member and advisor of WINGS; and Colorado Aviation Historical Society Lifetime Member and Advisory Board Member, four (4) terms. He has received numerous Awards for Skybolt N360NP for Showmanship and Construction.

ROBERT ALAN RESLING - HALL OF FAME

Although born in New York State, Bob became attached to Colorado life as a USAF Academy Cadet, graduating in 1967. Following extensive USAF pilot training, he was assigned to the 35th Tactical Airlift Squadron, Naha Air Base, Okinawa, supporting combat efforts in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia with airlift out of Cam Ranh Bay and Tan San Nhut. Lt. Resling and his C-130 Transport Crew encountered enemy fire at Bu Dop, Republic of Vietnam, while on a fuel delivery mission, and in 1971 was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for valor. He flew highly classified missions for the CIA and supported top secret operations of troop drops (along Ho Chi Minh Trail) into Laos. He transferred to Little Rock AFB, AR in March 1971 and assigned to the 61stTAS; C-130E Instructor Pilot; worldwide tactical airlift missions; deployed to Ching Chaun Kang Air Base Taiwan in May 1972 to supply replacement aircraft and crews for the "Easter Offensive" in Vietnam. Total Combat Sorties: 773; Combat Awards include: the Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Medals (4); Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry; Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with 7 battle stars; Vietnam Service Award; Presidential



Unit Citation and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. He later was activated for Desert Storm in January 1991.

The Aviation Career of Bob Resling is varied and includes the FAA; Ports of Call; Captain or Chief Pilot of several commercial Airlines; and Asia Pacific Airlines where he is Vice President of Operations. He has 7,500 total time logged in the Lear Jet, 707, 727, DC-8, A-300, A-320 and the B-777.

Bob was called to participate on the Emergency Support Team to help secure our nation during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. He owns/operates a T-38C and has a passion for honoring MIA and POW at local airshows and fly-ins as a pilot or Airshow Coordinator. He is on the Wings Over the Rockies Board and on the Speakers Bureau, focusing on aviation and youth. He has chaired several fly-in events for the CAHS to visit the Lafayette Foundation Museum. He is President of the LAO-Hmong Memorial Foundation, to establish a permanent National Memorial in Westminster, Colorado to honor Special Guerilla Units that fought in support of U.S. interests in Southeast Asia.

CO SPORT INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW & ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FLY-IN

The "Greatest Generation" of flyboys and WASPs spent two days in the "Patriots and Heroes Pavilion" with a small but fascinated audience. RMMA and CSA treated us exceptionally well, with power for the giant flat screen TV and laptop computer provided by Charters by Air Denver. Gate passes were provided for our speakers and volunteers. Everyone had a great time, it was an incredible way to spend our time with these great Americans who served and fought to keep our country free.

With grateful thanks to our notable speakers and honored guests:

Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum,
Tuskegee Airmen
Bill Bower, Doolittle Raider #12
Leonard McKinney, B-17 Instructor
Elmer "Lucky" McGinty, B-17 Gunner
Don Whipple, Iwo Jima

Jim Blaine, Marine, South Pacific
Joe Weinmeyer, Flame Thrower
James E. Harrison, Pilot
Clayton Nattier, Pilot, Stalag POW
Bill Brunger, Battle of the Bulge
Frank LaBlotier, 8th Air Force

Kathryn Gunderson, WASP
Millicent Young, WASP
Grace Lotowycz, Wasp
Pete Peterson, 8th Air Force
Mike Quering, 8th Air Force

(See photos on pages 6 & 7)

FLOWN WEST

COL. BILL EDWARDS, HOF 2001
ROGER E. MacDONALD, HOF 1992
GAYLE SNELL, HOF 2005

We extend condolences and wish to express our deepest sympathy to their families and friends. We will miss them.

COLORADO SPORT INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW & ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FLY-IN

PATRIOTS AND HEROES PAVILION



Dave Kempa, Michael McRhodes

Special Thanks:

Dave Kempa,
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Kenny Maempa RMMA;
Clark Teasdale, CSA



Bea Khan Wilhite,
Chairman



Dave Kempa, Pete Peterson,
Don Whipple, Mike Quering



Leonard McKinney, Elmer "Lucky" McGinty,
Joe Weinmeyer, Don Wipple



James Harrison, Vorry Moore
Tuskegee Airmen



Col. Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum



Jim Blaine, Marine,
South Pacific

COLORADO SPORT INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW & ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FLY-IN



Frank LaBlotier
WWII, 8th Air Force



Millicent Young, WASP



Bill Brunger, Battle of the Bulge,
Clayton Nattier, Stalag POW



Col. William M. "Bill" Bower, Betty Lotowitz, WASP



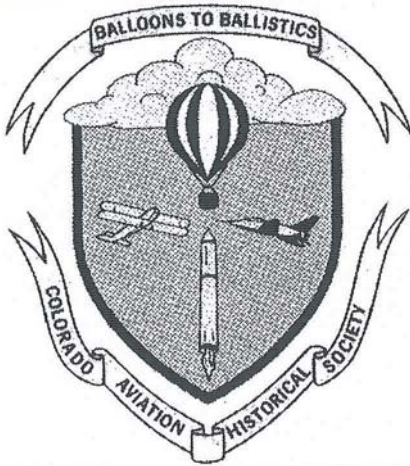
Kathryn Gunderson, WASP and daughter



Buck Newsum, Bea Khan Wilhite

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