

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTIC ASSOCIATION

"The National Aero Club of the United States"



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ELDER STATESMEN OF AVIATION SELECTED

The National Aeronautic Association announced today that seven persons have been selected to receive the prestigious Elder Statesman of Aviation award for 1993. They are Joe Foss, Evelyn B. Johnson, L. Welch Pogue, Benjamin R. Rich, Kenneth A. Rowe, James B. Taylor, and Robert R. Williams.

The Elder Statesman of Aviation Award was 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 who have reflected credit upon America and themselves. All of the selectees are at least 60 years of age. Nominations were solicited from hundreds of organizations and aviation leaders in the United States. Forty-eight individuals were nominated from throughout the nation. Selection was made by a distinguished committee of 31 aviation leaders from all segments of the aerospace community.

The awards will be presented in Washington on November 17, 1993 at a luncheon sponsored by the Aero Club of Washington.

1993 recipients of the Elder Statesman of Aviation award are:

Joe Foss: for outstanding accomplishments encompassing military, general, and airline aviation. Recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Congressional Medal of Honor for acts of heroism in the Pacific Theater during WWII, winner of the Outstanding American Award, past President and Chairman of the Board of the Air Force Association, Governor of South Dakota and father of the South Dakota Air National Guard, past Director of Public Affairs for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, and inductee into the Aviation Hall of Fame, General Foss has been a tireless advocate and ambassador for aviation throughout a lifetime of service.

Evelyn B. Johnson: for her lifetime of contributions to general aviation. To date she has logged over 52,000 hours in general aviation aircraft and at age 85 still works 12-hour days at the Morristown Municipal Airport in Tennessee, which she has managed since its opening. She was instrumental in forming the Morristown Squadron of the Tennessee Civil Air Patrol (CAP) which has continually fostered an interest in aviation within the community. A dedicated flight instructor since 1947 and a designated Pilot Examiner since 1952, CAP Lt. Col. Johnson has continuously striven to instill a drive for excellence and a love of aviation in her students.

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L. Welch Pogue: for his strong advocacy and wise counsel in the development of broad-ranging international aviation protocols and agreements. Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board throughout WWII, his subsequent role in establishing the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Bermuda agreement were truly historic achievements. Representing the United States at these epoch-making international conferences, his shrewd analyses, perceptive commentary, and wise legal counsel earned the highest respect in the international aviation community for both himself and the United States. At the age of 93, he still gives his time and energy generously to the cause of commercial aviation.

Benjamin R. Rich: for over 40 years of leadership in advanced aerospace technology which has profoundly affected American national defense. As Director, and then President of Lockheed's famed "Skunk Works," he directed development programs that ultimately produced such ground-breaking aircraft as the F-104, SR-71, U-2, C-130, and the XFV-1, the precursor to the revolutionary V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft. His streamlined management approach and charismatic leadership style which built the Skunk Works' reputation for high performance, security, quality, cost efficiency, and on-time delivery are widely emulated within the government and the aerospace industry as well as in non-aerospace companies. Recipient of the highly prestigious Collier Trophy for the development of the F-117 stealth aircraft, he continues to serve the nation as a consultant and a member of the Defense Science Board.

Kenneth A. Rowe: for a lifetime of service to the United States through his involvement in aeronautics. During a career with the Virginia Department of Aviation which spans over three decades, he initiated a series of innovative programs which have significantly enhanced civil aviation and has made the department a model for other state aviation agencies throughout the country. Among his many achievements is one program involving an innovative network of 20 non-federal Automated Weather Observing Systems which has enhanced flying safety and reduced the number of weather-related general aviation accidents in Virginia by a phenomenal 23 percent.

James B. Taylor: for pioneering new industry programs and concepts that contributed significantly to the development of corporate aviation and to the establishment of business flying as a vital economic component of the national and international transportation systems. His dynamic leadership and innovative marketing strategies guided three major business jet aircraft programs (Dassault Falcon, Cessna Citation, and Canadair Challenger) to unparalleled success. His selflessness in coming out of retirement to guide Gates Learjet to profitability in just under one year is a model of managerial ingenuity and personal dedication to aviation.

Robert R. Williams: for his pioneering efforts in establishing U.S. Army Aviation. Widely regarded as the father of U.S. Army Aviation, Lieutenant General Robert Williams was personally responsible for persuading authorities in the Army and the Department of Defense to establish a series of blue ribbon boards whose findings directly resulted in elevating Army Aviation units from the company level to that of the airmobile division. During his career, he actively participated in virtually every Army decision on major aircraft selection and procurement. His efforts have made lasting and significant contributions to the U.S. Army's ability to effectively discharge its mission.

The National Aeronautic Association is the National Aero Club of the United States. Its primary mission is the advancement of the art, sport, and science of aviation and space flight by fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and by promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.

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