

North Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame

The North Dakota Aviation Council founded
the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1997
to honor outstanding individuals
who have made significant contributions
to the aviation industry.

Individuals have been selected on the basis of:

- Leadership within their profession
- Achievements toward the enhancement of aviation
- Contributions to the development of others in aviation
- Service to aviation activities in North Dakota

2001 INDUCTEES

Alfred E. Dahl..... b. 1912
Gordon W. Person b. 1935
Jack W. Watts 1918-1995
Robert K. Watts b. 1917

2000 INDUCTEES

Vincent S. Buraas b. 1918
Ernest "Hod" Hutson b. 1922

1999 INDUCTEES

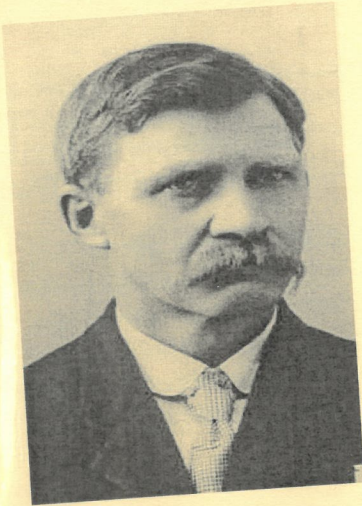
John D. Odegard..... 1941-1998
Warren Walkinshaw b. 1920

1998 INDUCTEES

Daniel L. Wakefield 1913-1995
Wilbur E. Brewer b. 1924

1997 INDUCTEES

Harold G. Vavra (1914-1992)
Carl Ben Eielson (1897-1929)
Art Sampson (1900-1962)
Charles Klessig (1911-1985)
Alfred C. Pietsch (1926-1995)
Duane "Pappy" Larson (b. 1916)
Oscar Ness (b. 1919)
Leland Brand (b. 1921)
Thomas Nord (b. 1922)
Jack K. Daniels (b. 1925)



CHARLES W. TAYLOR MASTER MECHANIC AWARD



*Federal Aviation Administration
Flight Standards District Office
1801 23rd Avenue North Room 216
Fargo, ND 58102*

Charles W. Taylor Award

The FAA Charles W. Taylor Master Mechanic Award was designed to recognize the "quiet heroes" of the U.S. Aviation Maintenance profession. This award is not easily attained as it took each recipient a lifetime of experience just to qualify.

The FAA's Master Mechanic Award is the highest recognition and honor that can be bestowed upon an aviation mechanic.

Each recipient of this award has their name inscribed into the FAA Honor Roll Book at the FAA Office
800 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC.



Annual Symposium Banquet
March 5, 2001
7:00 P.M. (CST)

Ramada Suites & Conference Center,
1635 42nd Street SW
Fargo, ND.

Ardell T. Bestland
East Grand Forks, MN

Mr. Bestland began his aviation career in 1945 at Grand Forks, ND as a Flight Line Attendant for the Grand Forks Airport and as an apprentice A & E mechanic at Valley Aircraft, Grand Forks, ND.

He served in the military with the U. S. Air Force from 1950 to 1954. From 1955 to 1964, Mr. Bestland owned and operated B-K Airspray. From 1965 to 1985, he was Director of Maintenance for Grand Forks Airmotive, Minnkota Power Co-operative Inc., and Northern Airways Inc.

During the time 1985-1986, Mr. Bestland was also the A&P/IA at Red River Aero and Director of Maintenance for Aero Center 1 from 1986-1990.

He is also a certificated pilot and continues to exercise his mechanic privileges.

Richard J. Halldorson
Cavalier, ND

Mr. Halldorson began his aviation career in 1941 with Lockheed Aircraft. He joined the U. S. Navy in 1942. In 1961, Mr. Halldorson founded Cavalier Air Services. During his aviation career, he has also worked with Cavalier Airport, Cavalier, ND and a local Flying Club.

Mr. Halldorson is also a certificated pilot, certified flight instructor and continues to exercise his mechanic privileges.

Ernest O. Knutson
Tioga, ND

Mr. Knutson began his aviation career in 1940 at Lockheed Aircraft. He served in the military with the U. S. Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946.

From 1946 to 1966, Mr. Knutson helped to establish the Tioga Airport, Tioga, ND.

Mr. Knutson is also a certificated pilot and continues to exercise his mechanic privileges.

Lloyd M. Seckerson
Jamestown, ND

Mr. Seckerson began his aviation career in 1942 while serving in the military with the U. S. Army Air Corps until 1946. He has worked as both a pilot and mechanic, and continues to exercise his mechanic privileges.

Vincent S. Buraas
Northwood, ND

Mr. Buraas began his aviation career in 1937 at NDSSS, Wahpeton, ND. He began working at Douglas Aircraft in 1939. In 1946, Mr. Buraas began the Vince Airport at Northwood, ND.

In 1947, he began the Vincent School of Aero at Northwood, ND.

Mr. Buraas is also a certificated pilot and continues to exercise his mechanic privileges.

Arthur J. Dobias
Angus, MN

Mr. Dobias began his aviation career in 1936 and joined the U. S. Air Force in 1944.

During his aviation career, he has worked with Rantaven Air Service, Crookston Aviation, Grand Forks Airmotive, Dakota Aviation of Grafton, ND, and Mike's Aviation of Hallock, ND.

Mr. Dobias continues to exercise his mechanic privileges.

Robert C. Chase
Mandan, ND

Mr. Chase began his aviation career in 1952 at Hebron, ND.

He had worked as both a pilot and mechanic until his untimely death in 1999. From 1962 until 1988, Mr. Chase was airport manager for the Mandan Airport, Mandan, ND.

In addition to his pilot and mechanic experience, Mr. Chase was involved in Piper Aircraft sales, service, and repair.

Mrs. Ruth Chase and family will accept the recognition and award on behalf of Mr. Chase.

Albert L. Thompson
Cooperstown, ND

Mr. Thompson began his aviation career in 1945 at Wahpeton, ND.

He had worked as both a pilot and mechanic until his untimely death in 2000.

In 1949, Mr. Thompson purchased and operated Skyways, Cooperstown, ND until 1984, at which time he continued to work there as Chief Mechanic and IA.

Mrs. JoAnne Thompson and family will accept the recognition and award on behalf of Mr. Thompson.

