

Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

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Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame Names 2011 Inductees Five to be honored at October banquet

OSHKOSH, WI. August 15, 2011 – The Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame has announced its 2011 slate of inductees who will be honored for their accomplishments and contributions to aviation. Daniel Donovan, Bill Rewey, Dennis Sullivan, and, posthumously, Marc Mitscher and Steve Shalbreck, will be inducted at a ceremony to be held in Oshkosh.

Dan Donovan was selected for his longtime commitment to aviation. Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1927, Dan soloed at 16 and soon after, entered the US Navy. He worked as a flight instructor in Milwaukee and then became a pilot for Republic/Northwest Airlines from 1954-1986. Dan has served as an aviation safety counselor and has been active with the Civil Air Patrol's safety training programs since 1980.

Bill Rewey, born in Marshfield, Wisconsin, in 1928, flew the F4U while in the US Navy after World War II. He continued to fly as a civilian, and has become known as "Mr. Pietenpol." He has built three Pietenpols and has advised and assisted in the construction of dozens more. He has published many how-to articles on building Pietenpols and served as a coordinator for Pietenpol events in Brodhead, Wisconsin, and at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh.

Born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, in 1927, Brig. Gen. Dennis Sullivan is a 1950 Naval Academy graduate. In 1962, he was chosen for the Central Intelligence Agency's Project OxCart to pilot a Mach 3-plus A-12 reconnaissance airplane to replace the U-2. He was the only one of 16 finalists to be selected. For five years he flew top-secret missions, some of these were combat missions in "Project Black Shield" over North Vietnam. He returned to regular Air Force duties in 1968, accumulating 7,000 hours in dozens of aircraft.

WAHF recognizes the men and women who were making aviation accomplishments before 1927. The 2011 Pioneer inductees are Marc Mitscher and Steve Shalbreck. Though Mitscher qualifies as both a pioneer and non-pioneer for his long career, he will be inducted with Steve Shalbreck in the pioneer category. Born in Hillsboro, Wisconsin, Mitscher grew up in Oklahoma and Washington, D.C. He became Naval Aviator Number 33 in 1916 and was a crewmember on a Navy transatlantic flight in 1919. Mitscher made his first takeoff and landing from the USS Saratoga in 1928. Mitscher also served as the First Commander of the USS Hornet in 1941, launching Jimmy Doolittle's raid on Tokyo. He served at Midway, Guadalcanal and at Leyte, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Mitscher died in 1947.

Steve Shalbreck was born in Pine Lake, Wisconsin, in 1901, and served the airport in Rhinelander from 1925-1959. He was the first manager of the Rhinelander airport at its present site and instrumental to the development of Rhinelander's first air strips. He operated Rhinelander Airways and was an active flight instructor. Shalbreck ran the first air ambulance service in northern Wisconsin and was well-known for flying polio victims for treatment. He passed away in 1986.

2011 Induction Ceremony

The 2011 induction ceremony will be held at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on Saturday evening, October 29, beginning at 5 p.m. The event is open to the public. For more information, contact WAHF's Richard Fischler at 262-370-5714 or email Rich.Fischler@RapcoInc.com.

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