

Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

Contact:

Rose Dorcey, President

Phone 715-570-1186 or 608-836-9840

WI Aviation Hall of Fame to Induct Five at Fall Banquet

MIDDLETON, WI. May 08, 2007 – The Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame will induct five aviators at a ceremony to be held this fall. Paul Collins, Ed Hedeem, Roy Reabe, Carl Rindlisbacher, and Tom Thomas will be honored for their achievements and contributions to aviation in Wisconsin.

Collins and Hedeem will be inducted in the Pioneer category, for those who made aviation achievements before 1927. Collins was a well-known airmail pilot, logging 3,587 flight hours and 361,689 miles for the U.S. Mail Service. He was an early member of the caterpillar club. Collins became a founder of Transcontinental Air Transport, “The Lindbergh Line” which evolved into Trans World Airlines.

Ed Hedeem served as the engineering officer for Commander Richard Byrd in the 1920’s, and helped establish the Great Lakes Naval Air Station. He also managed the Air City Airport near Sturtevant, Wisconsin, and was hired as the first corporate pilot for Johnson Wax.

Roy Reabe is a leader in agricultural aviation in Wisconsin. He has been a pilot and A & P mechanic for over fifty years. He developed curriculum for and taught ground school at high schools, and created a state aviation organization, Wisconsin Ag Aviation Association.

Carl Rindlisbacher’s devotion to the Rice Lake airport and aviation meteorology characterizes his induction. Rindlisbacher was known as a true ambassador of Wisconsin aviation.

Tom Thomas was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics, for over 32-years. Before and during his years of service, he served in the Air Force and Wisconsin Air National Guard. Thomas is a certified flight instructor with both single and multi-engine ratings and is a commercial rotorcraft/helicopter pilot. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the EAA Young Eagles program, having flown over 200 flights.

The inductees will be enshrined at a ceremony to be held in the Eagle Hangar at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh on November 10. Plaques will be presented to the inductees and then permanently displayed in the Fergus Plaza at the museum. The public is invited. Tickets will be available later this year by calling Keith Glasshof at 715-832-6379.

The Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame organized in 1985. Over 75 men and women who have made significant achievements in aviation in Wisconsin have been inducted. The organization’s mission is to collect and preserve the history of aviation in Wisconsin, recognize those who made that history, inform others of it, and promote aviation education to future generations. To learn more, visit www.aviationhalloffamewisconsin.com.

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Rose Dorcey
8550 Greenway Blvd #413
Middleton WI 53562-4732

Phone 608-836-9840

E-mail: flyer@aviationhalloffamewisconsin.com
Website: www.aviationhalloffamewisconsin.com