



Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame

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For Immediate Release

Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame Honors 2023 Inductees

NEWARK – The Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame (DAHF) will induct six notable First State aviation achievers for 2023. The inductees will be celebrated at an Honors Banquet at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center, on October 28, 2023. Founded in 2000 to commemorate outstanding service in military and civilian aviation, the Hall of Fame has now recognized, through 2023, a total of 134 current or former Delawareans who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation/aerospace in Delaware, brought singular credit to the First State in their achievements elsewhere and/or have shown gallantry in aviation in service to the First State, and/or the Nation.

The 2023 Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame Inductees are:

Kip Becker - Kip Becker graduated from Newark High School and attended the University of Delaware for two years before joining the Army in 1966. He graduated from Army Flight School and served in Vietnam from October 1967 thru October 1968 flying 1,171 combat hours earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and 30 Air Medals. He was then an instrument flight instructor and following active service, returned to school to complete BA, MBA and Ph.D. Degrees.

Al Burk - Al Burk left the University of Delaware to join the U.S. Army in March 1967. He graduated from Army Flight Training in March 1968 with the rank of Warrant Officer First Class (W01) fully qualified to fly the UH - 1 (Huey) and AH - 1 (Cobra) Helicopters. He served in Vietnam from June 1968 thru June 1969 while flying 1,349 combat hours and receiving the Silver Star and Purple Heart Medals. He also received a combat direct commission to 1LT and was later promoted to Captain. He continued to serve with the U.S. Army in Europe and with the Delaware Army National Guard for more than two decades flying both rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft.

Adrian Byers - Adrian Byers attended Caesar Rodney High School and graduated from Delaware State University. Upon graduation, he joined the US Air Force Reserves. He rapidly completed Officer Training School and Undergraduate Pilot Training and was subsequently assigned to Dover AFB to fly C-5 A/B Galaxy. While at Dover, he flew commercial jets for Business Express and US Airways. After September 11, 2001, he entered active duty and transferred to Travis, AFB, CA, while transitioning from the C-5 A/B/C Galaxy to the KC-135R/T Stratotanker. He returned to the Air Force Reserve in 2015 and back to commercial flying with the newly merged US Airways/American Airlines. He went on to fly the Boeing 757/767 and in 2019 he transitioned to the Boeing 787 DreamLiner.

Jo Cousins - Jo Cousins was an Air Force JROTC Cadet while at Dover High School. He joined the Civil Air Patrol and received his pilot's license while studying at Delaware State University. He joined the Coast Guard and participated in Hurricane Lenny Search & Rescue and Hurricane Katrina Relief missions. Since 2019, he has been flying United Airlines Boeing 737, 757, & 767 airplanes and instructing on Boeing 757 & 767 airplanes.

Richard Kimm – Richard Kimm graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1959 and entered the United States Navy to begin his 50 - year career in aviation. He served on the USS Lake Champlain and made over 300 carrier catapult take-offs and arrested landings. He flew important reconnaissance missions over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After twenty years as a Naval Aviator, he worked for Eastern Airlines and Atlantic Aviation. While working for Atlantic Aviation, he convinced Flight Safety International to create the Wilmington Flight Safety Training Center at Newcastle County - Greater Wilmington Airport (ILG). After running Wilmington Flight Safety for a dozen years, he returned to commercial aviation and flew for two more decades.

A King Lotz, Jr. - A. King Lotz Jr. graduated from Alexis I. duPont High School and the University of Delaware. He joined the U.S. Air Force Flight Program in November 1951, during the height of the Korean War. By March 1953, he received his wings and soon became operationally qualified in the Air Force's front-line fighter, the North American F-86D (Saber). After the Korean War, he joined American Airlines. From 1956 thru 1962, he co-piloted the Convair 240, Douglas DC-6, & Douglas DC-7. From 1964 through 1972, he piloted the Boeing 720 and BAC1-11 and captained the Boeing 727

For more information on the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, go to our web site www.dahf.org;
or by regular mail to DAHF, P.O. Box 4303, Greenville, DE 19807-0303.