



# DELAPLANE

*Delaware's first airplane*



Official publication of the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame  
Volume XII, No. 1 Winter 2012

## Honors Banquet Number 12

### Wings of Service



**Al Suber,**  
**Honors Banquet Co-Chairman**

On September 24th, 2011 the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame held its 12th annual banquet to enshrine six deserving Delawareans into the Hall.

This year the theme was “Wings of Service” to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Naval aviation as well as U.S. Marine, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard aviation.

Clayton Hall at the University of Delaware was again the venue for the banquet and ceremony inducting the six honorees. The evening began at 5:00 PM with the soothing music of the Delaware Army Guard’s “Stardust Knights” combo. While cocktails and hor d’ oeuvres were enjoyed by nearly 300 attendees during the reception, they viewed the displays showing the accomplishments of the honorees.

The cocktail hour provided a festive time to meet the soon-to-be inducted members and visit with friends, previously inducted Hall of Fame members and various dignitaries who always attend to honor the new inductees and the past members. The festivities, as always began with the Marine Corps Color Guard marching into the banquet area to present the colors, followed by the traditional bag piper and the honorees accompanied by their trustee “Wingmen.” Then the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

After an excellent dinner came the highlight of the evening. The “Wingmen” presented their inductee with an audio visual presentation of their exploits and history before the awarding of the Hall of Fame medallion and plaque. Each of the inductees gave a moving acceptance



speech. The outstanding class on this night were **Dan Coons**, Ed.D, creator of the Airway Science Program at Delaware State University; **Nancy Currie**, Ph.D., Master Army Aviator and Astronaut; **John Jordan**, Vietnam Helicopter Pilot; **John Kroening**, Ph.D., WWII B-25 bomber pilot; **David McCallister**, P-51 pilot and builder of the Delaware Air National Guard; and **John Renzetti**, Dual Master Army Aviator in combat in Vietnam.

After the presentations, the inductees and their families were invited to be part of a photo session conducted by trustee and official photographer Bill Fitch. Before, during and after the festivities, Bill took some 250 photos of the evening which were made available to the honorees and several of which appear in this issue of the newsletter.

The singing of “God Bless America” concluded a very successful and happy evening for all who attended.

## 2011 DAHF Inductees



Dan Coons



Nancy Currie



John Kroening



John Jordan



David McCallister



John Renzetti

## On Being an Inductee

### The DAHF Inductee Experience



**Dan Coons,**  
**Class of 2011**

When notified by the DAHF Board of Trustees that I had been selected for induction into the 2011 Class, several emotions came all at once. One was of disbelief that I could possibly have been chosen to join such other inductees who had distinguished themselves by being one of two aircraft that took on the entire Japanese Naval Air

Force that attacked Pearl Harbor; or a 24-year-old bomber pilot who flew his B-17 against the Luftwaffe unescorted by fighters in raids against a variety of targets in occupied Europe; or the member who had shot down two Russian MiGs while flying an F-80 in the Korean War; or the helicopter pilot flying hundreds of sorties to rescue or deliver troops under fire in Viet Nam; or the astronaut who flew three missions in outer space; or the founders of airports in Delaware who had devoted their lives to developing and encouraging general aviation in Delaware.

The second emotion was the humility knowing that this great honor had been bestowed upon me by my brother and sister pilots, all of whom had achieved great things in their own right. To have been nominated by an Air National Guard Brigadier General who had flown transports under fire and commanded

the DANG brought a lump in my throat. Knowing that so many friends in the aviation community had made this all possible turned the lump into gentle tears.

The third emotion felt was pride. Pride in knowing that “my kids”, those who had gone through the academically and physically rigorous Airway Science Program at Delaware State University, had achieved so much as professional pilots with airlines, with the military, with corporations, with federal agencies including the Secret Service, FBI, DEA, Forest Service and FAA. They had more than fulfilled my dreams for the program when it finally was approved on July 1, 1987. As JoAnn and I had worked and fought so hard for “our kids,” they had become the New Tuskegee Airmen. And they were always “there” when needed through some difficult times for this inductee.

I would highly recommend that any new inductee do as I had done. WRITE YOUR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BEFOREHAND AND READ IT—NOT WING IT. To look out over the audience and see your family there, sharing and honoring your accomplishments, your friends standing and applauding and “your kids” rushing to give you a big hug, makes delivering a speech an emotional rollercoaster—one of the toughest things I have ever done. It is further recommended that you depend strongly on your wingman to assist you through the entire experience. I was fortunate in having the DAHF President, my old friend, Hugh Horning as mine.

As a final recommendation, prepare to enjoy yourself and have one of the finest, most meaningful, most emotional experiences of your life. On September 24, 2011, I was and am the luckiest inductee on the face of this earth. *Details of Dan Coons aviation achievements and contributions appear on our website at [www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org).*

# Latest Honor for DAHF Inductee



**Brig. Gen. Carol A. Timmons**  
**2007 DAHF Inductee**

Brig. General Carol A. Timmons, Director of the Joint Staff, Delaware Air National Guard, assumed the duties of Assistant Adjutant General-Air during a Change of Command Ceremony on January 8. Inducted into the DAHF in 2007 while a full Colonel, she was

promoted to Brigadier General in April 2011, the first female General ever in the Delaware Air National Guard.

General Timmons earned her Army pilot wings in 1981 and her Air Force wings in 1984. She served some six overseas deployments to the Mid-East, flying combat missions as Squadron Commander and Deputy Operations Commander. She has earned some 40 awards and decorations including the Bronze Star. When not on active duty with the National Guard, she is a First Officer for United Airlines with some 10,000 flying hours. A resident of Rehoboth Beach, she became a member of the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

## Would you like to nominate someone to the DAHF?

### 2012 YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is given to the young man or woman who has distinguished himself or herself in aviation training, career development and participation in aviation community activities. Delaware youths 15 to 21 who are pursuing careers in aviation, in the air or on the ground are eligible as are youths enrolled in aviation training programs in Delaware. Supporting materials are encouraged. The nomination itself should not exceed two typewritten pages single-spaced.

June 1, 2012 is the deadline for nominations for the 2012 award.

### 2012 AVIATION HALL OF FAME

If you wish to nominate someone just send us a letter not exceeding two single spaced typed pages. Please explain why you feel your nominee deserves induction into the DAHF. Supporting documents, news articles, citations and photographs are welcome. Qualifications may come from *ANY* aspect of space, air or ground involvement in flying. The nominations for consideration in 2012 must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2012. Be sure to include your return address.

Send nominations to Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame P. O. Box 4303 • Greenville, DE 19807-0303

## DAHF Aviation Legacy Video Project



**Mike Brock, Trustee**

The Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame Aviation Legacy Video Project is a long term venture which will endeavor to promote and preserve a heritage of heroism and dedication which is particular to our organization. The project is intended to

expand the vision of DAHF's founders by use of current technologies to encapsulate for posterity the unique experiences of inductees, aviation personnel with Delaware connections, and any individuals that the Hall of Fame deems worthy of this project.

The first video has been completed and features Hall of

Fame Inductee Robert Veazey. His aviation feats and career have been edited down to an hour and a half DVD. The product is owned by DAHF and may have numerous uses to further benefit the organization. One such possibility will be to enhance our website, [www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org), by providing vignettes of the interviews in a video format. Other media promotions utilizing these historic interviews will be discussed in the future. Of course, each interviewee will be provided a DVD at no cost to them.

The cost of producing these videos will be borne by funds donated specifically for this purpose. We would like to thank Greer Firestone of Legacy Videos for his assistance in the production of the first video and the cooperation of Bob Veazey.



▲ Honors Banquet guest signing in at UD Clayton Hall



▲ Guests enjoying "hangar flying," refreshments and displays during the reception



▲ Biographical display of 2011 honoree David F. McCallister



▲ Display celebrating the 100th anniversary of U.S. Naval aviation



▲ Army National Guard "Stardust Knights" combo providing musical background during the reception



▲ Piper and Color Guard leading the opening procession into the banquet area



◀ Pledge of Allegiance leader Paul Cathell with MC Jim Kohler and Banquet Co-Chair Frank Ianni in background

▶ Ron Mehan, Trustee and Chairman of the Youth Achievement Award, presenting 2011 recipient Willie Gonzalez





◀ President and Wingman Hugh Horning inducting Daniel E. Coons, Ed.D into the DAHF



▲ Trustee and Wingman Jim Hickin presenting astronaut Nancy J. Currie for induction (absent due to death of husband)



◀ Inductee John D. Kroening, Ph.D. with Trustee and Wingman Linda Berl. His daughter in background.



▲ Inductee John A. Jordan receiving plaque from President Horning



▲ Trustee and Wingman Al Suber posthumously presenting Inductee David F. McCallister whose daughter accepted for him



◀ Trustee and Wingman Mike Brock presenting John P. Renzetti for induction



▲ The 2011 Class of inductees: Jordan, Coons, Kroening, McCallister's daughter, Renzetti, Gonzalez (YAA). Currie not represented.



▲ The proud family of posthumous inductee David F. McCallister

# Thank You Donors



**Bruce Marvel, Trustee**

As you might imagine, the costs associated with holding the annual banquets have been slowly increasing each year. Because of the membership dues and the generous donations of individuals and corporations, we have been able to keep costs to the members and guests attending the banquet reasonable. However, this is becoming more of a challenge each year.

The DAHF website has recently been designed so that

## **The 2011 year's major donors were as follows:**

**Jet Aviation Teterboro  
Atlantic Aviation  
Georgetown Air Services  
DuPont Co.**

**Collin P. Hunt  
Caroline DuPont Prickett  
Air Enterprises Inc.  
Al Johnson Jr.**

**Engineered Arresting Systems Inc.  
New Castle County of Delaware  
William O. McCabe**

membership dues and donations can be made online. This proved to be a great cost savings this year as 46% of the banquet tickets were purchased online. However, the DAHF still needs your help.

The Board of Trustees invites you to become a member or a sponsor of this worthwhile program so we can continue to recognize the men and women who have made a vital contribution to aviation. Please visit the DAHF website at [www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org) to learn more about aviation in the First State and consider becoming involved in this worthwhile endeavor. All membership dues and donations are tax deductible.

## Bellanca Airfield Museum and DAHF Exhibits

The Bellanca Airfield Museum has closed for the winter and will resume operations in April on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month through October. Groups can schedule a visit for a tour or for other functions at other times, day or evening, by calling 762-9057. Tours and visits are free but donations are gratefully accepted.

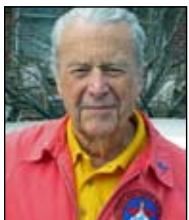
In addition to telling the story of G.M. Bellanca, the designer and builder of numerous record-breaking planes for more than 25 years in New Castle, the museum also tells a story of all inductees into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame since its inception in 2000. Also highlighted are special aviation events particularly those with a unique connection

to Bellanca or to Delaware, such as the 100th Anniversary of Army and Navy aviation, the 100th Anniversary of the first airplane built in Delaware, the Delaplaine, and the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Featured this year will be the 100th Anniversary of the Marine Corps Aviation, the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway, the 85th Anniversary of the Distinguished Flying Cross medal; the 75th anniversary of the delivery of the first B-17 to the Air Force; and the 75th anniversary of the last flight of Amelia Earhart. Special lecture programs will be held for Midway and Amelia Earhart. Check the website at [www.friendsofbellancaairfield.com](http://www.friendsofbellancaairfield.com) for more details.



## Message From The President:



**Hugh Horning, President, DAHF**

Our operational theme for the past two years has been "Onward and Upward"... be at least as good as we have been and improve wherever possible. In 2011, we met all our objectives in whole or in part: increase inductee nominations; increase membership; obtain more major donor contributions; reduce costs of Honors Banquet; reduce costs of newsletter; convert postal mailing list to email; and replace retiring Board members.

The DAHF has become, over its 12 years existence, a presti-

gious and highly regarded Delaware aviation entity celebrating our state's rich aviation history by honoring some 73 individuals who have contributed significantly during peace and war.

The DAHF has flourished because of dedicated individuals on its Board of Trustees, its membership and those who have supported it by donations and by participation in the annual Honors Banquet. We compliment and thank you all and sincerely ask for your continued interest, involvement and support.

Onward and Upward!

# DAHF Gets Major Publicity

Making the general public aware of DAHF, its inductees and activities is a major, on-going function of the organization which hopefully results in increased public participation and support. The Fall/Winter, 2011 edition of the "Greenville & Hockessin Life" magazine carries a very impressive twelve page article about DAHF and its activities. The reporter-editor, Steve Hoffman, did an

outstanding job of research and writing and included a number of four-color photos depicting various aspects of DAHF's activities.

If you have a chance, visit the article online at [www.GHLifeMagazine.com](http://www.GHLifeMagazine.com) (the article runs from page 106 to page 118). Try it; you'll like it!

# DAHF Announces Two New Board Appointments

## New Vice President



Jim Hickin was appointed as Vice President in November, 2011 succeeding Bob Veazey who retired from the Board for health reasons after serving with dedication and distinction for eight years. Jim, a Board member for five years, serves as Government Relations Chair, was Delaplaine historic

marker project Chair and has been wingman to several inductees. Jim is Manager of the Sussex County Airport in Georgetown, Del.

## New Board Member



Joe Melloy was appointed to the Board of Trustees in October, 2011. He is a graduate of AFROTC from St. Joseph's University (1956); USAF veteran (1956-1959), single engine pilot and member of DANG (1960-1965) flying F-86Hs and C-97s. A native Delawarean, he was an Army and Air Force auditor and IBM Corporation computer consultant from 1956-1993. Now retired, he is involved in numerous non-profit organizations. He will assume several major responsibilities in January, 2012.

# The New DAHF Website



**Bill Fitch, Trustee**

If you haven't done so already, take a moment to visit the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame web site at [www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org). With a major redesign and layout completed in early 2011, the DAHF website has evolved to being a full-scale internet destination. The site provides the viewer with a complete experience, providing pages of information on the history and legacy of the DAHF, links to our online newsletters, plus a comprehensive listing of all the Inductees to date.

New in 2011 was adding the ability to order and purchase Honors Banquet tickets online. By utilizing the PayPal® online payment system, viewers are able to make credit card payments securely and at their convenience, eliminating the need to print out order forms, write checks, and mail them to us. Currently, we've expanded this type of "e-payment" offering to include paying online for memberships as well as making donations.



For 2012, our plans are to expand the site to include interactive media pertaining to aviation in Delaware. This will include links to streaming videos and other content that'll provide a more in-depth visual experience for the viewer.

So, please take a few minutes to visit [www.DAHF.org](http://www.DAHF.org) and check out all the upgrades, right after paying for your membership online (nudge-nudge!).

# DAHF Newsletter Going Electronic

To save the considerable costs of printing and mailing 3-4 issues per year, we are moving toward email distribution. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please forward your email address to our website [www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org). Go to "contact us" and type in your name and address.

# DAHf Membership Form

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover annual membership in the following category (check one).

- Individual Member      \$25       Corporate Sponsor      \$1000  
 Individual Patron      \$250       Gold Corporate Sponsor      \$2500

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 4303

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Greenville, DE 19807-0303



**DELAPLANE**

Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame

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To learn more about the DAHF please see our website

[www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org)