

# AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Celebrating Delaware's Aviation Greats | DAHF | Join Us!

## Aviation Distinction

The Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame commemorates the First State's aviation greats, their distinction in contributing to Delaware aviation; it honors outstanding service in civilian and military contributions.

## Youth Award

In addition to the Inductees, the DAHF sponsors an annual Youth Achievement Award, given to the young adult who has distinguished him or herself in aviation career development.

## From The President

*"We have completed our assessment for 2017 and announced the Inductees and Youth Award. We look forward to our October celebratory Banquet, at which we will present the medals and plaques, reflecting the achievements and accomplishment of these heroes of Delaware aviation"*

Bruce Lambrecht



2017 Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2017 Banquet Date October 28th

The 18th Hall of Fame Annual Banquet to Honor Aviators with Accolades and Friendship will be held Saturday, October 28th, commencing at 5pm. Our venue will again be the fabulous U of D's Clayton Hall. Following cocktails and mingling with members, inductees and dignitaries we will enjoy a ceremony and dinner acknowledging the accomplishments of the 2017



Inductees. Each will be introduced to the audience by his/her DAHF Board 'Wingman', summarizing the achievement and impact to Delaware aviation of the inductee. Each will be formally inducted into the Delaware Aviation Hall of fame by the Board President.

Additionally we will recognize and award a young man or woman who has distinguished themselves in aviation training,



## The DAHF Board & Trustees

The DAHF Board of Trustees comprises representatives of Delaware's many aviation activities, civil and military, including several Hall of Fame Inductee's from past years.

Board Members volunteer their time and expertise to the workings of the DAHF, covering such aspects as inductee assessment & selection, finances, banquet organization, publications and much more.

Members also act as 'wingmen' for the selected inductees, offering assistance as we prepare and undertake our Grand Banquet.

You will see and meet the Board Members at the banquet, we'd be pleased to answer any questions you might have.



career development and participation in community activities.

We complete all of this over an excellent dinner, prepared and served by the fabulous staff of the University of Delaware.

This is truly a unique evening, a wonderful event and a Delaware calendar milestone. Great people, great camaraderie and all in celebration of aviation, both military and commercial. Join us for 2017!



Tickets are now available for this event at the DAHF web site. Join us for this wonderful evening!

**[WWW.DAHF.org](http://WWW.DAHF.org)**

## DAHf President Bruce Lambrecht

Our country is slowly running out of pilots. There have already been airline flights cancelled for lack of flight crews. What can we do about this pilot shortage?



To get young women interested in aviation, the Trustees of the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame have partnered on a construction project with the Trustees of the Bellanca Museum, the 99's, members of E.A.A. Chapter 240, members of E.A.A. Chapter 1536 and Troop members of the Girl Scouts of America.

We are building a full-sized, non-flying replica of the first airplane that Giuseppe Bellanca built in the United States in 1911. The finished aircraft will be on display in the Bellanca Museum. During the construction, the Girl Scouts will be given the cut-out wing ribs to sand smooth. When they are done, they can sign their names on the ribs. The ribs will then be returned to us for clear-coating and installation. A poster will be placed next to the aircraft in the Bellanca Museum that lists all of the Girl Scouts that worked on the aircraft.

During their work, they will be taught about the principles of flight, the history of Giuseppe Bellanca and what he did for aviation in Delaware, as well as the different career paths in aviation.

Hopefully, this will instill a desire in these young ladies to pursue a further interest in aviation as a career.

Because...this country needs pilots!

*DAHf President, Bruce Lambrecht*

## We Rely on YOU!

DAHf cannot exist and we could not commemorate the great aviators of Delaware without your support. Our thanks to the current, loyal membership who renew with us each year.

We invite and welcome new members to the DAHF membership to ensure the continuance of the organization, and the recognition of our great Delawarean aviators.

## Become a Member!

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

At just \$25 we can ensure the process and programs continue. Membership provides free entrance to Friends of Bellanca Museum events and a DAHF Membership Evening Event in 2018.

Please consider becoming a member, which can be easily accomplished via [www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org)



## Banquet Silent Auction

Start saving your money! There will be a silent auction once again at the DAHF 18th Annual Banquet to Honor Inductees on October 28, 2017. Stop by the tables and pick those items you can't live without. You will be able to bid on them during the course of the evening. Hopefully, you'll be the top-bidder and you will go home with a treasure or a treat!! Here are just a few of the 2017 items for your bids:



Flight for Breakfast

## The 2017 DAHF selectees:

**Raymond A. Firmani** – After growing up in Wilmington, Mr. Firmani enlisted in the Army at 22, earned his wings, and was deployed as a B-17 Co-pilot in the 486th Heavy Bombardment Group, part of the mighty 8th Air Force. He completed his tour of 25 missions over Germany, eventually winning the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary heroism.

**Sharon Forbes** – a Supervisor of Scheduling Operations and Facility Manager for DuPont Aviation, Ms. Forbes started her career as an international flight attendant for Capitol Airways. Her current job responsibilities at DuPont Aviation include functioning as the primary aviation contact for DuPont's Office of the Chairman, Customer Service Liaison, DuPont Aviation Facility/Security Manager and Webmaster of the DuPont Aviation intranet website.

**Caroline du Pont Prickett** – An avid aviation enthusiast, air racer and pilot, Ms. Prickett was left with Summit Aviation and other Businesses after her husband Kip du Pont's death. Vowing not to close the plant despite the less than promising condition of General Aviation, she invested all she had, her house, farm, and even her jewelry, to keep the business going, working long hours to learn the business, and overcome reverses. Through her efforts, Summit Aviation became a state of the art repair facility. She sold the business in 2008 satisfied that her work was done well.

**Hans Reigle** – In his distinguished military and commercial piloting career Mr. Reigle has logged over 12,000 flight hours. He was a military flight instructor in both the U.S. Army and United States Air Force. He completed research on Tuskegee Airmen while flight instructing at Delaware State University and has contributed to flight safety while serving on various FAA advisory boards. He is a certified helicopter and airplane flight instructor and is currently a pilot for United Airlines based in Washington, D.C.

**Edward J. Scully** – Mr Scully joined the Army and started a 27 year career as a Green Beret, Helicopter Pilot, and Deputy Inspector General. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam and retired as a Lt. Colonel. After his army career, he joined the team at Summit Aviation where he served for 25 years. Under his leadership, Summit completed several successful programs supporting military programs while employing many veterans to complete those programs. He retired from full time service from Summit in 2013 but continues to serve Summit as an advisor to the leadership team.

**Leonard I Rippa** – Mr. Rippa, served the United States of America in many capacities. As an innovator in navigation, the Air Force implemented one of his ideas for the recovery of John Glenn's space capsule, which LTC Rippa was directly involved. In addition to many awards and decorations, LTC Rippa also received the Distinguished Flying Cross while participating in a rescue of a downed aviator in Vietnam in 1968. He continued to serve his country in many impressive capacities following his retirement. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full honors in 2001.