



# Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame

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*For Immediate Release*

## Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame Honors 2017 Inductees

**NEWARK** – The Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame (DAHf) will induct six notable First State aviation achievers for 2017. The inductees will be celebrated at an Honors Banquet at the University of Delaware’s Clayton Hall on October 28, 2017. Founded in 2000 to commemorate outstanding service in military and civilian aviation, the Hall of Fame has now recognized, through 2016, a total of 104 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 2017 Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame selectees are:

**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 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.

For more information on the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, go to our web site [www.dahf.org](http://www.dahf.org); by email directly to Bruce Lambrecht ([brucelam@udel.edu](mailto:brucelam@udel.edu)); or by regular mail to DAHF, P.O. Box 4303, Greenville, DE 19807-0303.

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