

✓ Mr. Ryan
✓ Col. Talbert
✓ Miss Mary Brosmahan

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

HARMON INTERNATIONAL AVIATION TROPHIES

December 14, 1965

✓ Mrs. Mayori
members of the Advisory Board
Award winners, trustees and distinguished guests

Most of you are aware that the Harmon International Aviation Trophies were founded in 1926 by the late Colonel Clifford B. Harmon, pioneer American aviator and balloonist, as a means of promoting greater international understanding and world peace through recognition of outstanding aeronautical achievement regardless of nationality.

✓ Up to three Harmon Trophies are given each year, as piloting performances warrant, to the world's outstanding aviator, aviatrix and aeronaut (lighter-than-air-pilot). These trophies are recognized throughout the world as the top awards for feats of individual piloting skill.

They have been won by Americans, Frenchmen, Swiss, Germans, Englishmen and citizens of several other countries.

✓ It is interesting to recall that Charles A. Lindbergh was the second recipient of the Aviator's Trophy for his solo

flight across the Atlantic from New York to Paris, and that last year, Major F. Gordon Cooper became the first earth-orbiting astronaut to receive the Aviator's Trophy. Winners of the Aviatix Trophy have included Jacqueline Cochran of the United States and Jacqueline Auriol of France. The Aeronaut's lighter-than-air Trophy has been awarded to the late Dr. Hugo Eckener of Germany and Admiral Charles E. Rosendahl of the United States.

This year's awards of the Aviator's Trophy to my old friend Max Conrad of Winona, Minnesota, a veteran 62-year-old Trans-Atlantic pilot and flying grandfather (with ten children and ~~13~~ grandchildren) and of the Aviatix Trophy to the late Joan Merriam Smith of Long Beach, California, underscore the tremendous growth and importance of General Aviation in the United States and throughout the world -- it is in keeping with the original ideals of Colonel Harmon in founding the Harmon Trophies. Today, the General Aviation Fleet of the U.S., "America's Wings of Peace," numbers 92,000 aircraft. Aviation pilots -- both private pilots and those flying in pursuit of business activities -- crisscross the North American continent many times each day. They have expanded their flying operations into South America,

the Caribbean -- nearly 400 General Aviation pilots flew their own aircraft to Europe during the past year and some made flights to the Middle East and Asia.

6,600 miles
over water

My friend Max Conrad, who crossed the Atlantic many times solo in light aircraft, is the first General Aviation pilot in history to win the Aviator's Trophy. His winning 57-hour non-stop solo flight of 7,878 miles in a twin-engine light aircraft -- from Cape Town, South Africa to St. Petersburg, Florida -- is almost unbelievable. This flight involved one of the longest continuous overwater flights ever attempted (6,600 miles over water) and established a new official world non-stop record for Class-5 lightweight aircraft.

The late Mrs. Joan Merriam Smith (whose husband, Lieutenant Commander Jack Smith has been flown back by the United States Navy from active duty in Vietnam to be present at this Awards ceremony) had a childhood ambition to complete a solo flight around the world at the equator. The same flight envisioned and attempted nearly 30 years ago by the late Amelia Earhart. Joan realized in full this ambition. Between March and May 1964 she did the incredible -- she flew solo 27,000 miles around the world on an equatorial route in a

light airplane. She persevered even though plagued by
head-winds, weather and many other difficulties. She is the
second General Aviation pilot to win the Aviatix Trophy.

↳ Mrs. Betty Miller of California won last year's award by a
solo flight from California to Australia.

↳ Mrs. Smith's associates among the "Ninety-nines" --
an organization of women pilots founded by Miss Earhart
and Ruth Nichols -- have compiled a memory book in Joan's
honor consisting of a letter from the President, ^{the} Prime
Minister or Chief of State of each nation in which she landed
during her earth-circling trip, attesting the immense
international good will created by her flight.

*
↳ The distinguished Board of Advisors voted no award
for the Aeronaut Trophy this year.

↳ It has been a real pleasure for me to present these
awards today being mindful of the inspiration that Joan
Merriam Smith has left with the women flyers of the world --
and the continuing inspiration that Max Conrad gives to the
light plane pilots of the world.



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