

Montgomery Flight – 1904

Moffett Field – 1933

China Clipper – 1936

Hiller XH-44 – 1944

NASA Ames Research Center -- 1981

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– Northern Wings photo

Eileen M. Collins with 2005 Crystal Eagle Award

SPACE SHUTTLE COMMANDER

Astronaut Eileen Collins becomes 23rd recipient of Crystal Eagle Award

Space shuttle commander Eileen M. Collins has become the 23rd recipient of the Aero Club of Northern California's Crystal Eagle Award.

The award is presented annually by the Aero Club to honor those whose achievements are among the highest in aviation and aerospace endeavors.

Collins, who commanded Space Shuttle Discovery on NASA's return to space mission last summer, is a veteran of four space flights.

She received the Crystal Eagle from President Rick Willson at the club's annual dinner Oct. 22 at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

Collins joins a long list of aviation's greatest – among them Jimmy Doolittle, Chuck Yeager, Scott Crossfield, Stan Hiller and Paul Poberezny – to receive the honor.

At the dinner, the Aero Club also presented National Aeronautic Association special certificates to two long-time aviators and awarded scholarships to three students in San Jose State University's Aviation Department.

Collins, who received a standing ovation when she was

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Quenten Burden and Frank Mason receive NAA honors

The Aero Club of Northern California presented National Aeronautic Association certificates to two long-time aviators at the annual Crystal Eagle Dinner.

The awards went to former Douglas and Lockheed test pilot Quenten Burden and to flying club founder Frank Mason for life-long contributions to aviation.

Burden, who entered the Navy in 1941 and flew off aircraft carriers in

the Pacific during World War II, became chief test pilot for Douglas Aircraft Co. afterward. He flew a variety of aircraft ranging from the DC-3 through the F4D Skyray.

Then Burden became a corporate pilot for Lockheed Missiles & Space Co., based at then-San Jose Municipal Airport. In the 1960s, he was project test pilot on the Lockheed Q-Star program, which developed ultra-quiet,

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Quenten Burden



Frank Mason

Aero Club awards scholarships to S.J. State students

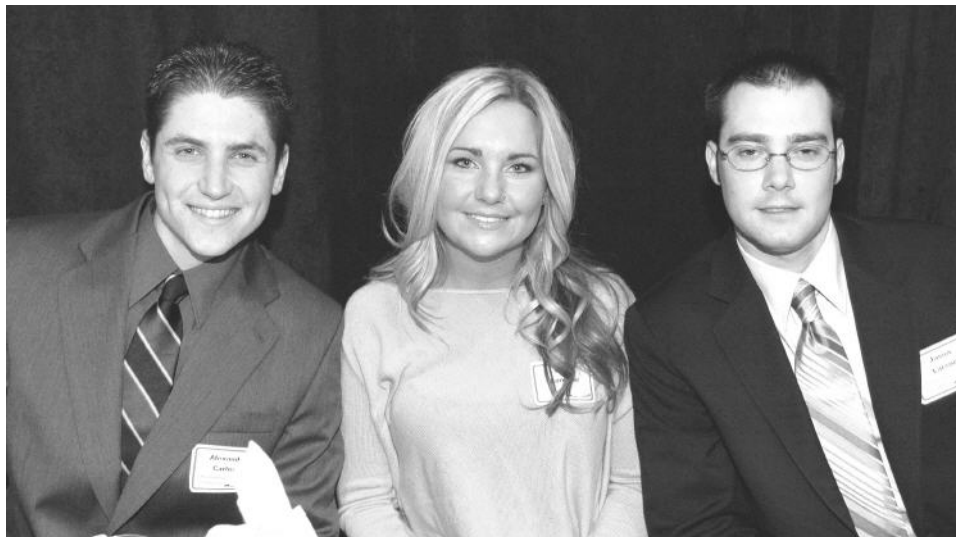
Three San Jose State University aviation students were awarded scholarships during the Aero Club of Northern California's 2005 Crystal Eagle dinner.

Alexander Carlozzi was the recipient of the Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship, named for the former Aero Club director who was a highly decorated Army rescue helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Alex, a San Francisco native, transferred to San Jose State from the College of San Mateo in 2003, and graduated in December with a degree in aviation and both university and department honors. He has been accepted into the Navy as a student naval aviator.

Sarah Lemmer received the Roy G. Hester Scholarship, named for the World War II Army flight instructor and long-time aviation insurance businessman whose office was at San Jose airport for nearly 30 years.

An Idaho native, Lemmer entered San Jose State in Fall 2002. She is a dean's and president's scholar. She is the first recipient of the Jason Dahl Scholarship, named for the captain of



– Northern Wings photos

Scholarship winners Alex Carlozzi, Sarah Lemmer and Jason Larson

United Flight 93 on 9/11. She plans to pursue an advanced degree in engineering.

Jason Larson received the James M. Nissen Scholarship, named for the former navy, airline and NACA research test pilot who over a 30-year period built San Jose's airport from a dirt strip into a major airline terminal.

Jason, a California native, transferred to San Jose State from Los

Angeles Mission College in 2003. He is a dean's scholar, who served an internship at San Jose International Airport in the Spring 2005, and last summer worked for NASA at Moffett Field. He will graduate this spring with a degree in aviation and a business minor, and plans to pursue a career in airport management and an MBA degree.

On hand to assist in the presentations was Air Force Maj. John Cabigas, the first recipient of an Aero Club scholarship in 1985. In the Air Force for 18 years, he is a U-2 instructor pilot who flew 182 combat missions

Burden, Mason receive NAA certificates



Jerry Bennett, right, presents award to Quenten Burden



Carl Honaker, right, presents award to Frank Mason

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, night-flying reconnaissance planes that flew stealth missions in Vietnam.

Mason, who operates Squadron Two Flying Club at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose, began his flying career with the British Royal Air Force reserve just after World War II while working as a structural engineer for Handley Page Aircraft. He later flew fighters and attack aircraft for the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve.

Mason moved to Canada to work for DeHavilland Aircraft. He came to the Bay Area in 1959 and held various positions with Lockheed Missiles & Space Co. until his retirement in 1988. He taught engineering and aeronautics courses at Foothill and DeAnza colleges from 1962 to 1994. In 1974, Mason formed Squadron Two.

Aero Club of Northern California 2006-2007 Board of Directors

Rick Willson – president
Carl Honaker – vice president
John C. Pfahnl Sr. – treasurer
Ray Hutchings – secretary
Ron Blake – past president
Jerry Bennett – director
Janet Russell Hitt – director
Frank Kirkbride – director
Thomas E. Leonard – director
Harold Oberg – director
Eric Peterson – director
James Ricklefs – director
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Scott Yelich – director
Frank Sweeney – director
 and newsletter editor

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Aero Club honors Eileen M. Collins with Crystal Eagle

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introduced, regaled the dinner-goers with her description and audio-visual presentation on the flight of Space Shuttle Discovery last July 26 to Aug. 9. The mission of STS-114 was the first shuttle flight since the Columbia tragedy of 2003.

Charming and gracious while showing the leadership skills that put her in command of two Space Shuttle missions and pilot on two other flights, Collins acknowledged that space flight is a dangerous undertaking.

But she said manned flights must continue because the abilities of robots and computers cannot substitute for human skills in space. And she hopes to go into space again, she said.

Collins was the first woman astronaut to pilot a shuttle, on STS-63 in February 1995. She was pilot again on STS-84 in May 1997, and became the first woman to command a shuttle mission on STS-93 in July 1999.

Collins, now 49, is married with two children. She retired from the Air Force early in 2005.



Eileen Collins speaks at dinner



— Northern Wings photos

Aero Club President Rick Willson presents Crystal Eagle to Eileen Collins

She started flying lessons at age 19, and entered military flight training in the Air Force after earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Syracuse University in 1978.

She was a T-38 instructor pilot and then a C-141 aircraft commander. She taught mathematics and was a flight instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. She was selected for the astronaut program while attending the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California, from which she graduated in 1990.

Along the way, Collins earned a master's degree in operations research from Stanford University in 1986 and a master's degree in space systems management from Webster University in 1989. She has logged more than 6,280 hours of flight time in 30 different types of aircraft.

Crystal Eagle recipients:

- 1983 – James “Jimmy” Doolittle
- 1984 – Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager
- 1985 – Stanley Hiller Jr.
- 1986 – William “Bill” Lear
- 1987 – James M. “Jim” Nissen
- 1988 – Anthony W. “Tony” LeVier
- 1989 – Elbert “Burt” L. Rutan
- 1990 – George S. Cooper
- 1991 – Allen E. Paulson
- 1992 – Jeana Yeager
- 1993 – Robert T. Jones
- 1994 – Frank L. Christensen
- 1995 – James S. Ricklefs
- 1996 – Darryl G. Greenamyer
- 1997 – Robert L. “Hoot” Gibson
- 1998 – Donald D. Engen
- 1999 – Paul H. Poberezny
- 2000 – Wayne Handley
- 2001 – Igor I. Sikorsky
- 2002 – A. Scott Crossfield
- 2003 – Clay Lacy
- 2004 – Elgen Long
- 2005 – Eileen Collins

Eric Peterson elected to Aero Club board

Eric Peterson, assistant director of the Santa Clara County Airports Department, has been elected to the board of directors of the Aero Club of Northern California. Peterson succeeds director Ronald T. Reuther, who resigned for health reasons.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Aero Club members tour

March 11, Saturday. Aero Club members will tour the Western Aerospace Museum at Oakland International Airport. Contact Aero Club director Jerry Bennett at (408) 646-7139 or jerbennett@comcast.net for reservations.

Wings of History Open House and Fly-In

May 13 at South County Airport. Organized by the museum and the South County Pilots Association, it will feature free airplane rides for youngsters under the EAA Young Eagles program. The museum is at 1277 Murphy Ave., San Martin. www.wingsofhistory.org.

42nd annual Watsonville Fly-In and Air Show

May 26-28 at Watsonville Municipal Airport. Large numbers of antiques and warbirds will be on display. Airshows will be flown Friday night and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Information at website, www.watsonvilleflyin-org.

Aero Club board Re-elects Willson as president

Rick Willson has been re-elected president of the Aero Club of Northern California.



Rick Willson

The annual election took place Jan. 17 at an Aero Club Board of Directors meeting.

Carl Honaker, director of the Santa Clara County Airports system, was elected vice president.

Honaker succeeds director Sharon Sweeney in the No. 2 position.

Willson, president the past two years, and Honaker will serve one-year terms.

Director John C. Pfahnl Sr. will continue as treasurer, and director Ray Hutchings was re-elected secretary of the club.

The Aero Club Board of Directors consists of unpaid volunteers who have an aviation background or interests. The board plans and directs club activities, including tours and the annual Crystal Eagle dinner.

The Aero Club of Northern California

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Chartered in 1981 as a chapter of the
National Aeronautic Association



- To keep the public informed of the importance of aviation and space flight to the nation's economic progress, its security, and to international understanding.
- To support a vigorous aviation and space education program for students at all levels of learning.
- To recognize and honor those who make outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation and space flight.

Museum visitors admire replica of Wright Brothers' 1903 Flyer - Northern Wings photos

Wings of History – a step into the past

The Wings of History Museum is operated by an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring antique aircraft and other artifacts.

The museum, at 1277 Murphy Ave., across the road from South County Airport in San Martin, is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends. Visitors also are welcome from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Seventeen aircraft dating to 1903 are on display. Another seven

will be restored.

The library has more than 2,500 books dating back to World War I.

More information visit:
www.wingsofhistory.org



Exhibits inside display hangar