



NEWS RELEASE

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Virginia Aviation Awards to be presented at annual conference

ROANOKE—The Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) will present the 2009 Virginia Aviation Awards at the 35th annual Virginia Aviation Conference Aug. 26-28 in Roanoke. The awards recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to aviation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Edward Wallis will be named “Virginia Airport Manager of the Year” for his achievements at the Stafford Regional Airport, including the lowering of aircraft personal property taxes, hosting the Force Protection Equipment Demonstration 7 for its second consecutive year, and creating ties with local Boy Scout troops to educate children about aviation. He tirelessly promotes airport growth and development, and positive community awareness and interaction.

Richard S. Williams, MD, FACS will receive the “Virginia Aviation Person of the Year” award for his significant role in providing senior Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Medical Examiner Services to southwest Virginia at his own expense. He has performed more than 250 medical examinations last year, paying particular attention to pilots without FAA insurance. His outstanding track record with helping pilots and his reputation for excellence makes him an asset to the Virginia aviation community.

Kenneth A. Rowe will be honored with the “Virginia Aviation Lifetime Achievement Award” for his lifetime contributions to aviation in Virginia. His 30-year service to Virginia included piloting duties during the terms of eight governors. He served as deputy director of the Virginia Department of Aviation for 21 years and was appointed director in 1983. He served for 10 years. Under his tenure, DOAV was repeatedly recognized as one of the most effective aviation agencies in the nation, leading the way in the use of satellite technology and navigational aids, in providing financial assistance to localities for airport planning and development as well as protection of airports from potentially dangerous encroachment. His contributions to the Virginia’s aviation industry are immeasurable.

The recipients will be recognized at the Virginia Aviation Awards Banquet on Aug. 27 at the Hotel Roanoke starting at 7 p.m.

DOAV continually strives to become the standard of excellence amongst state aviation agencies through; its cultivation of an advanced aviation system, a system that is not only safe for consumers, but one that will provide economic development opportunities throughout the Commonwealth; its promotion and education of aviation and aviation related issues, subsequently raising aviation awareness in the Commonwealth and beyond; and by providing executive flight services for the Commonwealth leadership.

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