



## **LLOYD P. NOLEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN AVIATION AWARD**

The Lloyd P. Nolen Lifetime Achievement in Aviation Award was first presented in 1989 by the Wings Over Houston Airshow Executive Committee to honor individuals, organizations, companies or corporations dedicated to the promotion or advancement of aviation. The award is given to the honoree, based upon a lifetime of commitment and time to aviation.

This annual award is named for Lloyd P. Nolen, the one person considered most responsible for the Warbird restoration program in the United States and many foreign countries. Nolen, the first recipient of the award, was an aviation enthusiast since the age of 16. He was an aircraft owner, pilot, mechanic, goodwill ambassador and businessman in several aviation-oriented enterprises. Nolen spent his entire life in the field of aviation until his death in 1991.

Prior to the early 1950s, no one was making a concerted effort to preserve the aircraft flown during World War II, which were being destroyed by the thousands. Sensing that an important part of our aviation heritage would be lost, Nolen and a few friends in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas acquired several WWII fighters and began flying them in air shows around the state. In 1957, they formed an organization dedicated to locating, acquiring and restoring as many aircraft – both allied and enemy – as possible.

Today, that organization – the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) – located in Midland, Texas, has more than 140 aircraft in its inventory and is one of the finest aviation museums in the country, with more than 8,000 members involved in the organization.

Previous Lloyd P. Nolen Lifetime Achievement in Aviation Award recipients include:

Paul H. Poberezny	Experimental Aircraft Association Founder.
Major General William A. Anders	USAF (Ret), Former General Dynamics Corporation CEO, U.S. Astronaut.
Major General Joe H. Engle	USAF (Ret), Former Kansas Air National Guard Commander, U.S. Astronaut.
Dr. Burt Rutan	Scaled Composites, Inc. Founder - Research Aircraft Developers.
Anthony W. LeVier	Former General Motors Aviation Chief, Research Test Pilot, First to fly the U-2 Reconnaissance Aircraft.

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R.A. Bob Hoover	Former test pilot, world-renowned air show performer.
Vic Agather	One of the original B-29 aircraft development project engineers, major CAF contributor.
Marvin L. “Lefty” Gardner	Former WWII Bomber Pilot, CAF organizer, world-class air show performer.
Brigadier General David L. “Tex” Hill	USAF (Ret), Former American Volunteer Group “Flying Tigers” Member, WWII Ace, Aviation Goodwill Ambassador.
Captain John W. Young	United States Navy (Ret), Active Astronaut – first person to fly in space seven times counting his lunar lift-off.
Joe Foss	WWII Marine Air Ace and Medal Of Honor Recipient.
Tuskegee Airmen	First African-American Squadron in U.S. Air Force history, highly decorated “Red Tails” who never lost an escorted aircraft in the European Theatre, first group or organization honored with the Nolen Award.
Charles L. Hutchins	One of the founding organizers of the Wings Over Houston Airshow. Since 1974, when Charles made his first appearance at the CAF Headquarters Airshow, he has not missed this airshow. The 2001 CAF Headquarters Airshow on October 6 and 7 marked 25 years of Tora! Tora! Tora! performances for Charles, who has served for the last 14 years as lead Tora pilot.
Herbert D. Kelleher	Founder and Chairman of the Board for Southwest Airlines. Herb Kelleher is honored for his lifetime dedication to promoting aviation, particularly Texas aviation.
Ralph S. Royce	President of the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, Ralph Royce has been associated with the Lonestar Flight Museum in Galveston, Texas since 1991. He is the recipient of a Special Achievement Award presented by the International Council of Airshows and serves as

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Chairman of the ICAS Safety Committee. Ralph represents the museum at air shows and serves as Airboss throughout the nation.

Maybelle M. Fletcher

Maybelle Fletcher has been an aviation pioneer for over 55 years. Owner of Fletcher Aviation in Houston, she has flown over 30,000 hours in more than 175 different models of aircraft and has given more than 10,000 “check rides” since 1947. She has made significant contributions to aviation in areas of flight instruction, Fixed Base Operations and regulatory matters.

Eugene F. Kranz

Gene Kranz has made outstanding contributions to space exploration. He served as Flight Director for numerous Apollo missions and led the “Tiger Team” for the successful return of the Apollo 13 crew. Additionally, he served as both Flight Director and Flight Operations Director for the Skylab program. Kranz was a co-recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Nixon for the Apollo 13 Mission and was designated a Distinguished Member of the Senior Executive Service by President Reagan.

Gordon Bethune

While known as the former CEO and Chairman of Continental Airlines, Gordon Bethune's passion for aviation has been demonstrated throughout his life.

147<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing/111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron  
Texas Air National Guard

The courage and dedication of the 147<sup>th</sup> FighterWing/111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron has been demonstrated over the past 90 years as the unit has protected the shores of the U.S. from enemy attack, carried the Stars and Stripes into combat and provided security, food and support to Americans in a time of need.

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