The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “5/2/75 - Presentation of the Harmon Trophy Awards” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESENTATION OF THE HARMON TROPHY AWARDS

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1975
SENATOR GOLDWATER

TRUSTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEMBERS OF THE HARMON TROPHY

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
1. I am honored to add my name to the list of presidents -- and vice presidents -- who have presided at the Harmon Aviation Award ceremonies.
2. HARMON AWARDS WERE FOUNDED IN 1926 BY LATE COLONEL CLIFFORD B. HARMON, A PIONEER AMERICAN BALLOONIST AND AVIATOR. THE AWARDS ARE FOR OUTSTANDING FEATS OF INDIVIDUAL PILOT SKILL -- WORTHY OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION -- CONTRIBUTING TO THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FLIGHT.
3. IN ADDITION TO AMERICANS, THE PILOTS OF SIX OTHER NATIONS HAVE WON HARMON AWARDS -- ITALY, BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND.
4. COLONEL HARMON, IN 1908, WAS THE FIRST PILOT TO FLY ACROSS LONG ISLAND SOUND (TWENTY-FIVE MILES).

HE ALSO SET SEVERAL ALTITUDE RECORDS FOR HIS DAY.
5. BY CONTRAST, TWO OF TODAY'S AWARDS INVOLVE A ROUNDTrip MIDDLE EAST FLIGHT (THIRTEEN THOUSAND MILES) AND A FLIGHT FROM FORMOSA TO SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE IN ILLINOIS (ALMOST NINE THOUSAND MILES).
6. THE HUMANITARIAN ROLE OF TODAY'S AVIATORS -- INCLUDING PILOTING HELICOPTERS AND BIG AIRLIFT MISSIONS -- ARE OFTEN VITAL TO LIFE. WITHOUT BRAVE AMERICAN PILOTS WE WOULD HAVE WITNESSED GREATER TRAGEDY IN THE RECENT EVACUATION OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. WE SOMETIMES FORGET THIS HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF AVIATION AND THE DEDICATION OF THE PILOTS INVOLVED.
7. IF IT WEREN'T FOR PIONEERS LIKE COLONEL HARMON,
WE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE FLYING OCEANS TODAY. HE IS A
TRUE HERO OF AMERICA'S PROGRESS IN AVIATION.
8. NOW, IT IS MY HONOR TO PRESENT THE 1974 HARMON INTERNATIONAL AVIATION TROPHIES TO HALF A DOZEN NEW HEROES -- THREE ASTRONAUTS, AN AERONAUT AND AN AVIATOR . . . AS WELL AS THE WINNER OF THE 1973 HARMON AVIATOR'S TROPHY.
SKYLAB TWO WAS LAUNCHED AND MADE A SUCCESSFUL RENDEZVOUS WITH
SKYLAB ONE -- WHOSE ALUMINUM SHIELD HAD RIPPED FREE, DAMAGING
SOLAR CELL PANELS FOR CONVERTING SUNLIGHT TO ENERGY. THE CREW'S
REPAIRS ALLOWED SKYLAB ONE TO CONDUCT EIGHTY OF ITS SCHEDULED
ONE HUNDRED HOURS OF EXTENSIVE MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS IN ORBIT.
THIS TROPHY IS AWARDED JOINTLY TO U.S. NAVY CAPTAIN CHARLES CONRAD, JR. -- NOW RETIRED FROM THE NAVY -- CAPTAIN PAUL J. WEITZ, U.S. NAVY, AND CAPTAIN JOSEPH P. KERWIN, U.S. NAVY.
10. The 1974 Aeronaut's Trophy is awarded to Malcolm S. Forbes for series of twenty-one flights in a hot air balloon which crossed the American continent from Coos Bay, Oregon, to Gwynn Island, Virginia -- more than twenty-five hundred miles. His son Steve Forbes is here to accept award.
THE FLIGHT SERIES WAS COMPLETED BETWEEN OCTOBER 4 AND NOVEMBER 6, 1973 -- ESTABLISHING THREE WORLD DISTANCE RECORDS AND THREE WORLD DURATION RECORDS.
11. Now the 1974 Aviator’s Trophy -- to a pilot who flew a C-5 airlift mission some thirteen thousand miles roundtrip from the United States to Israel. In addition, between October 14 and November 14, 1973, he personally directed virtually without interruption -- the operations of fifteen C-5’s and four hundred and seventeen C-141’s from the United States to the Azores and on to Israel.
THE WINNER OF THE 1974 AVIATOR'S TROPHY IS COLONEL EDWARD J. NASH, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST AIR FORCE.
THIS ESTABLISHED A RECORD FOR THE LONGEST FLIGHT IN A STRAIGHT LINE -- WITHOUT LANDING -- IN A TURBOPROP AIRCRAFT. WINNER OF THE 1973 HARMON AVIATOR'S TROPHY IS LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDGAR L. ALLISON.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!
CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: Talking Points: President's Presentation of the Harmon Trophy Awards

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: May 2, 1975, 12:00 noon White House

SPEECHWRITER: Mr. Casserly
EDITED BY: Mr. Friedman
BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Cleared by (Please initial):

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