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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

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

13,000

A ROUNDRIP MIDDLE EAST FLIGHT (THIRTEEN THOUSAND MILES)

AND A FLIGHT FROM FORMOSA TO SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE IN

9,000

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.

9. FIRST, THE 1974 ASTRONAUT'S TROPHY: TO THE CREW OF

SKYLAB TWO -- THE FIRST ASTRONAUTS IN THE HISTORY OF SPACE FLIGHT TO

ACCOMPLISH MAJOR REPAIRS SUCCESSFULLY ON A SPACE VEHICLE DURING A

MISSION. THE FLIGHT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN MAY 25 AND JUNE 22, 1973.

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.

12. NOW THE 1973 AVIATOR'S TROPHY -- FOR PILOTING AN HC-130H

AIRCRAFT OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SQUADRON

OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE NON-STOP ON FEBRUARY 20, 1972, FROM

TAIWAN TO SCOTT AIR BASE IN ILLINOIS -- A TOTAL OF EIGHT THOUSAND,

SEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO MILES WITHOUT REFUELING.

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!

END OF TEXT

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: _____

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