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Fellow Twirly Birds:

The 2017 Heli-Expo Dallas reception was well attended by over ninety guests. We were pleased to be joined by several new members and some Twirly Birds whom we have not seen for some time.

Jim Kettles collected the flight times from the members at the reception. The total was **437,498 flight hours!** That is a bunch of flight experience in one room. The total is particularly impressive because most of the flight hours were in helicopters. Our next poll will be to gather the helicopter flight hour experience of the entire Twirly Bird membership

We welcomed three new Associate members who easily met the Associate membership requirements with their accomplishments and contributions to the helicopter industry.

Associate Twirly Bird, Brandon Battles was with Bell Helicopter as the manager of the direct operating cost program from 1986 until 1985. In 1996 Brandon joined Conklin & deDecker as Vice President and co-owner. Brandon was the Chairman of the Helicopter Association International Economics Committee for twelve years where he initiated the Annual Survey of Operating Performance. Brandon also created and has taught the HAI Helicopter Maintenance Manager course for the past twenty four years.

Another new associate Twirly Bird is Gary Potochnik. Gary's is an Airframe and Powerplant mechanic with an Inspectors Authorization and is a FAA Designated Airworthiness Representative. Gary served as an Executive Vice President and member of the Board at HAS (Helicopter Accessory Services), a Vice President of Quality for MD Helicopters and has held several other industry positions. Gary served on the HAI Economics Committee from 1993 until 2014; Gary joined Brandon Battles in teaching the HAI maintenance management course for the past twenty four years.

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The third Twirly Bird associate to join us is Mike Broderick. Mike has been an Airframe and Powerplant technician for forty four years. Mike was the Director of Maintenance for a Part 145 repair station and was the owner of an FAA Repair Station. Mike has provided factory approved turbo shaft engine maintenance training to both the A&P students as well as the rotorcraft maintenance professionals.

Mike is the President emeritus of the SoCal Chapter of PAMA where he served 6 years. Mike writes articles for Rotor & Wing magazine as well as AirBeat.

Twirly Bird, Sergei Sikorsky presented our new Twirly Birds with a lapel pin.

Patrizia Nava, Assistant Coordinator for Special Collections, Special Collections and Archives Division, Eugene McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas, took the time to join the reception and gave us an update on the Twirly Birds Archive in the library. This archive was funded through an endowment made by the Twirly Birds in 2010. Bill Yarber and Jim Hamilton were instrumental and farsighted in this effort to preserve helicopter history. Every Twirly Bird should consider contributing his or her collection of helicopter related material to the library. In many cases our history has been lost because the records were thrown out or destroyed because no one knew what to do with them.

Paul Oelkrug, the recently retired coordinator of special collections at the University of Texas at Dallas graciously joined us for the reception. Paul reminded us that a good way to preserve our history is to put the information in your will. Your children and grand children will know exactly what to do with all those newspaper clippings, log books, pictures, scrapbooks and other memorabilia that you have collected.

Keegan Chetwynd of the Commemorative Air Force joined us at the reception. Keegan's group is moving ahead with plans to restore a Sikorsky R-4 helicopter. Keegan accompanied the airframe to the Heli-Expo exhibit hall where it received a lot of attention as many of us compared it to the new sophisticated and expensive helicopters in the exhibit hall.

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Previous Les Morris award winners present were Sergei Sikorsky and Bill Yarber.

This year's Les Morris award recipient is Carl Milko, President of Summit Helicopters, Cloverdale, Virginia.

Carl was introduced by his long time friend Don Groenemann. Don did a great job of reminding us of the industry contributions made by Carl and all the folks at Summit.

One of the most notable quotes about Carl came from a customer; "Carl's word and his handshake are better than a ten page contract!"

Twirly Bird, Sergei Sikorsky, presented Carl with the award. As predicted, Carl's acceptance speech was two sentences with which he acknowledged the contributions of his associates at Summit Helicopters.

New Twirly Bird members joining us in Dallas included: Harold Summers, Dana Kerrick, James Pleasant, Chin Yi Tu, Candise A. Tu, A.C. McClain Jr. Gary Hildebrandt, Dub Blessing, Randy Mains, Sidney Ache'e, Oscar Very, and Rodney Ritter.

Twirly Bird and Les Morris recipient, Nancy Miller Livingston Stratford, sent her regrets, saying she would miss the Dallas reception. She added the following comments regarding a Spitfire news article that I had sent her.

"Yes, the Spitfire was my favorite airplane too.....I was in the ATA 1942-45, 3 yrs., flew 50 different types of airplanes, 35 single and 15 multi-engine.....I did transfer to Prestwick, Scotland, after a year-plus at Hamble.....There were three Spit factories around Eastleigh, right next to us at Hamble, so flew many Spits; at Prestwick, Scotland, there were many twins coming in to be flown to southern airports....Wonderful flying experience, and felt good to be able to help out with the war effort....."

Several folks contributed time and effort to our reception: Kelley Parlier and Denise Thompson, Jim Kettles wife, Mary, daughter Hannah and Hannah's friend Tessa. John Kettles contributed the signage. Dennis MacBain was his usual organized self collecting dues, and handing out drink tickets.

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Jeff Evans and Bob Petite were the official reception photographers. They will provide the pictures to our stalwart Webmaster Roger Gould who will sort out the pictures and post some on our website.

If you receive this newsletter via the postal service, and use e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Dennis MacBain, macdennis@att.net, so that we can add you to the e-mail list.

Please take a few minutes and send me a story, news item, or just a suggestion for the newsletter. I would really appreciate hearing comments regarding the newsletter. My e-mail is srs@jma.com. Or if it is easier, just call me at 408 348 5780

Remember Paul Oelkrug's suggestion regarding your collection of helicopter "stuff". Add a sentence to your will or put a note with your will asking that the memorabilia be sent to the Twirly Bird archives at the University of Texas at Dallas. Or send it to the Twirly Birds and we will see that it is placed in the archives.

The next Twirly Bird reception will be at Heli-Expo in Las Vegas February 27, 2018.

We just received word that Twirly Bird Historian and former Twirly Bird Treasurer, had been in the hospital, but is now back home. His daughters suggested sending Bill an e-mail (williamyarber@sbcglobal.net) rather than calling. Best wishes Bill.

KEEP YOUR ROTOR IN THE GREEN!

Steve Sullivan

Enclosure: Carl Milko press release

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Carl Milko, 2017 Les Morris recipient

Carl Milko was born in Birmingham Alabama. At the urging of his father, a chemical engineer, Carl attended Michigan State University and was graduated in 1963 with a BS in Forestry. Upon graduation, Carl received an ROTC commission as an Artillery Officer.

While at Michigan State, Carl participated in the Army ROTC flight program, where he fell in love with flying. Carl served on active duty from 1964 to 1967.

After completing Army flight training, Carl served as a helicopter pilot in Viet Nam with A/502 (Outlaws), in 1965-1966. Carl received the Purple Heart and Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters during his combat tour. Carl left active duty with the rank of Captain.

After his military service Carl returned to Michigan State and continued his education obtaining a Masters Degree in Forestry.

From 1968 to 1980 Carl worked for Evergreen Helicopters, Inc. in McMinnville, OR, Roanoke, VA and Houston, TX. During those 11 years he gained valuable experience in forestry applications, operations and management. He advanced from Pilot to VP of Operations of Evergreen's Eastern Division.

During Carl's time working in the Gulf of Mexico he worked closely with and was very close to helicopter industry pioneers and Les Morris recipients, Roy Falconer and Joe Seward. Both Roy and Joe spoke highly of Carl, his work ethic, and high ethical standards.

In 1981 Carl and 4 other industry pioneers partnered together to form Summit Helicopters, Inc., based in Cloverdale VA, with the mission to serve the forestry and utility markets in the eastern US. Carl has served as the President of Summit since inception and has grown the company to 70 employees and a fleet of 15 rotor-wing aircraft serving customers across the United States. Additionally, he led Summit into becoming a Bell Helicopter Customer Service Facility and in that capacity; they now serve customers around the world with parts and maintenance support.

Summit Helicopters, Inc. opened the doors in 1981 as a full service commercial helicopter operator with the philosophy of "performing quality work in a timely manner with fair prices" for all customers. Since then, Summit has gained a great deal of experience in providing premium solutions for our customers in all facets of our business. Summit currently maintains an FAA Part 145 Repair Station Certificate, FAA Part 135 Air Carrier

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Certificate, FAA Part 133 External Load Certificate as well as a Bell Helicopter Textron Customer Service Facility certificate. From aircraft completions, refurbishment projects, maintenance, component overhauls and inspections, to aerial application, power line patrol, construction projects, fire suppression and external load long line flights, Summit has the expertise and the right mix of talented employees to complete your mission

In 1985 Carl was recognized for heroism and bravery. During the "Flood of 1985" in Roanoke Virginia, Carl safely rescued stranded victims from dangerous rising flood waters piloting a Bell Jet ranger.

Throughout the helicopter industry, Carl is respected as a man of great integrity, one who honors his commitments and whose "word is his bond". He takes great pride in the business he has built and the company he shares with his partners and employees thru an ESOP arrangement. He sees Summit's employees as one of their greatest assets.

Summit Helicopters is highly respected in the industry and maintains an excellent reputation as one of the premier operators in the eastern U.S. Carl has remained an active pilot since 1963.

Carl is well known for his civic activities and contributions to numerous organizations. Carl served on the Regional Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts

Les Morris Award recipient Don New commented that "Carl was an excellent choice for the Les Morris award".

Les Morris recipient, Bill Yarber stated that 'no one was more deserving of the award than Carl.

Linda Kvamme whose husband, Rod, was a Les Morris recipient, wrote, "Rod really liked Carl Milko and so do I, a very nice guy. Rod always admired Carl" for having the courage to start his own company.

Carl currently lives in Roanoke, VA with Elaine, his wife of 47 years. Together they have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Their son, John Milko, has followed in his father's footsteps and serves as VP Sales and Marketing for Summit Helicopters, Inc.