

PHILLIPS 66 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

BY STEVE BUSS

Editor's note: Again in 1998, Phillips 66 recognized four of our fellow Young Eagles volunteers for their Aviation Leadership Awards. Recognition from fellow EAA members is always appreciated, but when an organization such as Phillips 66 takes notice of our efforts, we can take pride in all we have accomplished. The following news release was recently received in our office. Join us as we salute the 1998 Phillips 66 Aviation Leadership Award recipients.

Four pilots have received 1998 Phillips 66 Aviation Leadership Awards. They are recognized for their outstanding volunteer work teaching children about general aviation and helping them realize their dreams of flight through the Young Eagles Program.

The recipients are: David Angel Sr., Rock Hill, South Carolina; Raymond and Lorraine Judd, Huddleston, Virginia; and Alan Kupferschmidt, Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

Phillips 66 Aviation presents its Leadership Award to "individuals or groups that make outstanding contributions in building awareness and encouraging a wider appreciation of general aviation."

"This year's winners were chosen because they lead by example," said Mark Wagner, Phillips 66 Aviation manager. "They've demonstrated that keeping general aviation thriving can be as simple as sharing a love of lying with the next generation of potential aviators.

For educating and inspiring children, for unwavering commitment to general aviation and for providing incentive to would-be volunteers, these four individuals were selected to receive the 1998 Phillips 66 Aviation Leadership Awards.

RAYMOND AND LORRAINE JUDD EAA CHAPTERS 646 and 8

In the Judd household, flying is a family affair. Ray obtained his pilot's license 15 years ago when his wife, Lorraine, bought flying lessons for his

55th birthday. Not to be outdone, Lorraine got her license in 1993.

After Ray took his first hour-long lesson, he spent twice that time talking about it," Lorraine said. "He was as enthusiastic as a kid, and I found it was catching. I admit I took my first lesson for Ray, but every one after



Ray and Lorraine Judd, Huddleston, VA., recipients of Phillips 66 Aviation Leadership Awards. They have teamed up to fly more than 380 Young Eagles since 1992.

that was for me."

Together, the couple has flown more than 380 Young Eagles since they joined the program in 1992. Asked why they've become so involved in the Young Eagles Program, Ray said simply, "We're getting so much out of aviation, we figured we had to give something back."

The Judds are proud owners (with a partner) of a 30-year-old Mooney M20-C named "Little Lady." The owners recently repainted the aircraft and refurbished the interior.

"This is definitely a team effort," he said. "Lorraine takes care of the ground work, makes arrangements and teaches the parents about aviation while I take the kids up flying. Since we do most of our Young Eagles flights on an individual basis, rather than through rallies, we never could have flown this many kids if there weren't two of us."

"You just have to see the look of pure enjoyment on a child's face after they've been up in the 'Little Lady' to know the Young Eagles Program is worth it," Lorraine said. "When kids show a lasting interest in aviation because of that first flight, it's even more gratifying."

Ray and Lorraine, now retired from jobs as an industrial engineer and accountant, respectively, have become known in their Smith Mountain Lake resort hometown as "the couple who will fly your kids or grandkids for free."

Ray said a crowning moment for him was when one Young Eagle listed him as a reference on an aeronautical college application.

"I try to emphasize to parents and children that an airplane is not just a rich man's toy and that general aviation is not just a leisure pursuit," Ray said. "General aviation is a big contributor to local economies and job creation — Virginia's airports alone contribute more than \$6 billion in economic activity to the state each year." Ray believes that the more people know about aviation, the healthier the industry will be.

In addition to flying Young Eagles, Ray and Lorraine participate in three or four rallies help by local EAA Chapters each year. They also help fly about 150 kids from the local high school one day each year, and have been invited to speak about aviation at area schools.

Lorraine and Ray also give a short safety talk before each flight. It's important to help kids and their parents understand that flying is safe.

"There are a lot of safety miscon-

ceptions out there, and we feel it's our responsibility to help dispel them," Ray said.

Ray and Lorraine plan to continue flying for a long time. "Flying will always be a big part of our lives," Lorraine said. "We try to take the plane out at least once a week, otherwise we get withdrawal symptoms.

"We want to give as many children as possible that same thrill."

Next month you'll meet David Angel, Sr., and Alan Kupferschmidt, Phillips' other 1998 Aviation Leadership Award recipients.

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