

Master Pilot Award
Kenneth A. Brown

This recipient of the Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award began his flying career at Allen Airways located at Hillsgrove Airport in 1946. He first soloed on November 27, 1946 and earned his Private Pilot Certificate on February 3, 1947.

Ken continued training with Allen Airways, working toward his Commercial Certificate until 1947.

After that he joined a flying club at Mineral Spring Airport in North Providence, where he continued to build his experience. In 1950 Ken joined the Rhode Island Civil Air Patrol at Smithfield Airport.

His flight activities continued at various airports in Rhode Island and Massachusetts until 1956 when Ken became an Air Traffic Controller at Patrick Henry Airport in Newport News, Virginia. Back in those days an applicant needed to have a minimum of 250 flight hours and a Private Pilot Certificate to become an Air Traffic Controller. However, a Private Pilot Certificate was not enough for Ken. In his off hours Ken worked towards his Commercial Pilot Certificate, which he earned while in Newport News.

In 1958 Ken transferred to the FAA Air Traffic Control Tower at New Bedford, Massachusetts, and was designated as the “Facility Pilot” in the FAA’s aircraft rental program, designed to familiarize the non-pilot controllers with the pilot’s point of view.

In 1963 Ken began working on his Flight Instructor Rating, and earned that rating on March 9, 1965 at North Central Airways. He then worked as a CFI while continuing his career as an Air Traffic Controller.

In 1968 Ken transferred to the Air Traffic Control Tower at T.F. Green Airport, where his friendly voice became well known to pilots throughout Rhode Island.

It was around this time that Ken became associated with the Little Rhody Flying Club as a CFI, and continued his quest for Instrument Instructor and Multiengine Instructor Ratings.

In 1978 Ken transferred from the Air Traffic realm of the FAA to the General Aviation District Office in Norwood, Massachusetts, where he served as an Aviation Safety Inspector.

In 1980 Ken transferred once again, this time to the FAA Regional Office in Burlington, Massachusetts where he became the Regional Accident Prevention Program Coordinator. Here he eventually became the region’s Chief Instructor in the Beechcraft BE-90 King Air flight-training program for Aviation safety Inspectors.

Ken served the FAA in this capacity until his retirement in 1985. But he did not retire from flying.

He has continued extensively as a pilot and as a flight instructor throughout his retirement, and he is currently training several pilots in the Maule M-7 Orion.

We are proud to honor Kenneth A. Brown and to present him with the United States of America, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award.