

Master Pilot Award  
Joseph S. Ludovici

This recipient of the “Wright Brothers” Master Pilot Award began flying on July 7, 1948, at the age of 10 years, 11 months and 7 days. You might say that flying is in his blood.

On August 1, 1953, his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, Joe soloed in a Taylorcraft BC-12D. This solo flight took place at SkyLANES, located at the Berkley Airport in Cumberland, Rhode Island. The flight instructor that soloed Joe was known to all of you, Joe’s Dad, Sabatino Ludovici.

After graduation from High School in 1955, Joe joined the Rhode Island National Guard, where he proudly served his state and his country for 42 years, as a pilot and instructor pilot until August 1997.

In 1960 Joe married his wife, Evelyn. That same year he earned his Airframe and Powerplant License.

Joe graduated from U.S. Army, Fixed Wing Flight Training on September 4, 1964. And that same month received his FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate. The following year, 1965, Joe graduated from U.S. Army, Helicopter Flight Training.

In 1967 he became a Certified Flight Instructor, and in 1969 Joe earned his Instrument Instructor rating.

In 1969 Joe also took the reins of the company his father had started in 1929, becoming the President of SkyLANES, Incorporated, located at North Central Airport. Joe holds that title today.

In 1983 Joe became an Army National Guard helicopter flight instructor; that assignment led to Joe becoming a Night Vision Goggle Flight Instructor; a Nap-of-the-Earth Instructor; and a Gunnery Instructor in Cobra Gunships.

In 1985 Joe became an FAA, Certified Flight Instructor in Helicopters.

In 1993 Joe added multi-engine to his airplane ratings.

Excerpts from his letters of recommendation include such phrases as “a dedicated flight instructor, mechanic and a person of the highest caliber”; “I highly recommend Joe”; “deserving in every way”; “a pilot of considerable skill and expertise”.

Joe has logged well in excess of 20,000 flight hours, including over 12,500 in airplanes and over 7,500 in helicopters. Most of those hours were as an instructor to the more than 5,000 students Joe has taught to fly.

We are honored tonight to recognize the contributions of Joseph S. Ludovici to the aviation industry and proud to congratulate him as recipient of the United States of America, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award.

It needs to be mentioned tonight, that Joe and Evelyn have three grown children, and as the saying goes, the acorn doesn't fall far from the Oak Tree.

Their youngest daughter, Laurie would love to be here tonight to congratulate her father on his splendid 50-year ride in aviation. Unfortunately, Laurie could not be here tonight. Although Laurie is a full time Rhode Island State Trooper, she is also a part time soldier who has been activated. Today she is a Black Hawk helicopter pilot, serving in Iraq along with hundreds of other men and women in the Rhode Island National Guard.

All of us in this room tonight have either been in the military or know someone who is currently serving. It seems only fitting that with today being Flag Day, we take a moment to honor our military veterans: those currently serving and especially Joe's daughter Laurie. We ask that you join us in wishing them all God Speed and Safe Home.