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NAFI Awards the Jack J. Eggspuehler Service Award During EAA AirVenture

Portage, MI, August 29, 2023 - The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) announces the winner of the Jack J. Eggspuehler Service Award. The award was presented at the annual member breakfast on July 27 at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh.

This year's Jack J. Eggspuehler Service Award went to David Hipschman. The Jack J. Eggspuehler Service Award, NAFI's highest honor, is bestowed by the NAFI board of directors. The award is given to deserving members, industry leaders, and/or organizations that perform, past and present, outstanding services for NAFI to the benefit of its members.

Hipschman's commitment to the betterment of aviation education, safety practices, and tireless efforts to help new and established writers share their knowledge with flight instructors is commendable. He blends his passion for writing and flying with the ability to teach others to be better communicators. Countless contributions to NAFI's *Mentor* magazine, *eMentor*, and other publications have benefitted from his editorial skills.



As director of publications and editor, Hipschman contributed in many ways to NAFI's communications and outreach to the community, including:

- Editing and writing for *Mentor* magazine.
- Producing *eMentor*, NAFI's weekly digital newsletter.
- Expanding the scope of NAFI's publications while simultaneously keeping costs down.
- Recognizing and developing new writing talent.
- Providing editorial consistency to NAFI's message.

Hipschman's diverse background suited him well for his role. Hipschman, 70, who retired from NAFI last year, was previously EAA's director of publications. He was the foreign services editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the publisher and editor of *Kinesis*, a nationally distributed literary magazine based in Montana. Under his

editorship, Wyoming's *Casper Star-Tribune* won the GLAAD Media Award for fighting hate crime.

He created Cyberland, the first-ever newspaper column about the internet, and was a contributing editor at *Web Review*, the first-ever internet magazine. Hipschman is a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain, has worked in live theater, was a police detective, volunteer firefighter and ambulance medic, and is an FAA-certificated pilot.

Accepting the award at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, Hipschman thanked NAFI's members. "Without the participation of its members who are willing to write interesting, articulate, and educational stories, NAFI's publications would not exist," he said. "I had the pleasure of knowing Jack Eggspuehler, who was a kind and generous man, and I'm humbled and honored to accept this award named for NAFI's founder," Hipschman said. "The award, which is recognized around the world, speaks of outstanding service to aviation education, which may sound difficult. Nevertheless, I have to say the 11 years I spent with NAFI was the easiest and best job I ever had because of the wonderful people I worked with and met on behalf of the organization. I love helping people write, especially people who don't really think they can, and NAFI let me do that."

"I recently glanced at the NAFI website at the list of people honored with this award over the years, and I am truly humbled, and maybe even a bit stunned, to be included in such company," he added.

When presenting the award to Hipschman, NAFI Board Chair Emeritus Robert Meder said, "David is not only a colleague, but a friend as well. In fact, he is the very best kind of friend — one who will tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear. NAFI is a better organization for that. David helped me, along with scores of others, learn how to better express ourselves in writing."

In recognizing Hipschman, NAFI Board Chair Karen Kalishek said, "It was a pleasure having someone of David's caliber on the NAFI team during his long tenure. David's commitment to the highest standards and vision contributed greatly to the excellence in member publications we enjoy today."

Jack J. Eggspuehler, founder of the National Association of Flight Instructors, and a member of the Flight Instructor Hall of Fame, served as president of NAFI for more than 30 years. The award named in his honor is presented to an individual or organization making a significant contribution to flight instructors, flight instruction, or aviation education. Past award recipients include Tom Poberezny, John and Martha King, and the Jeppesen Flight Training products team. NAFI congratulates David Hipschman as the 2023 awardee.

About the National Association of Flight Instructors

Members of the National Association of Flight Instructors work as independent instructors, at flight schools, universities, FBOs, corporate flight departments, and in the

military. Since 1967, NAFI and its members, who teach in countries around the globe, are dedicated to increasing and maintaining the professionalism of flight instruction. NAFI members influence active pilots daily: Students working to become pilots, current pilots training to advance their skills with new ratings or certificates, and pilots who seek to improve their skills with recurrent training. NAFI also serves as an advocate with industry and government as a voice for flight instruction. NAFI helps shape the current and future direction of flight training.

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