

The World Joins the Effort!

As more people around the world become aware of the effort to get the permanent home for the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame built, they are asking how they can join. For many individuals, that means making donations, contributing to the museum's collection, attending the annual Hall of Fame Celebration or all three! For national skydiving organizations worldwide, there is the **International Affiliate program**.

Most countries with active skydiving communities have federations, associations, committees or aero clubs. In the United States, that organization is the U.S. Parachute Association (USPA). The International Affiliate program allows these organizations to officially affiliate with the Museum & Hall of Fame.

We are thrilled to announce that four countries have or are in the process of becoming official Affiliates!

The USPA was the first to join when in July, its Board of Directors voted to become the museum's Host Country Affiliate. In December, the Board of Directors of the Australian Parachute Federation voted to become the museum's first International Affiliate. Since January, both the Brazilian Confederation of Parachuting and the Bulgarian National Aeroclub have been in the process of finalizing their agreements to become International Affiliates.

Affiliates benefit by seeing their national records and competition results presented in the museum. They will also have their member drop zones included on the *Drop Zones Around the World* touch screen. This display will have an



interactive function that allows visitors to the museum to let drop zone owners know of the visitor's interest in doing a

jump. Recipients of Affiliates' national awards will be presented at the museum, their banner will be displayed in the museum hangar and they will see their national flag prominently displayed on one of the flag poles lining the museum entry.



Museum & Hall of Fame President/CEO James F. (Curt) Curtis III commented, "We are pleased and honored to have these forward-thinking organizations join us early in this process. We know that many more countries will be following their example."



On November 30, 2018, following a long illness, the skydiving community lost its most internationally recognized member, George Herbert Walker Bush, US D-20,000. After making his first accelerated free fall in 1997,

President Bush became a champion for the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame, providing his name and strong support to the effort. He was, for nearly two decades, the museum's honorary chairman. We will miss his annual video appeal to the attendees of the Hall of Fame awards ceremony and banquet in which he enthusiastically challenged, "Now let's get this thing built!"

Photo by Tom Sanders

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A special thank you to those donors who, cumulatively, have contributed more than \$10,000 to the International Skydiving Museum (through 2018)

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Trustee Pat Thomas Receives USPA's Lifetime Achievement Award

Patricia "Pat" Thomas was the 2018 recipient of USPA's Lifetime Achievement Award for nearly three decades of advancing the sport of skydiving by sponsoring US competitors and teams, being a leader in the harness-and-container industry and masterfully organizing the PIA Symposium.

Pat is considered a fiercely loyal and honorable business woman whose impact traverses the globe. As president and owner of Sun Path Products for nearly 30 years, Pat is very close to seeing her company produce its 50,000th Javelin harness-and-container system. In addition to Sun Path, she is involved in five other business ventures including Complete Parachute Solutions and Tactical Training Facility, both sister companies of Sun Path that cater to the military. When she celebrated her 60th birthday in 2017, Pat attempted retirement but, in 2018, she was out of retirement and back on the job.

Born and raised in the UK, Thomas immigrated to the US in 1992. With a lifetime of achievements in the skydiving industry under her belt, Pat still considers her greatest life achievement her "family" which she defines as family, friends and employees. According to her daughter-in-law and Sun Path CFO Jessica Blay, "(Pat's) heart is bigger than anyone's I know. Family is most important to her, but the skydiving industry is part of her family."

The USPA's Lifetime Achievement Award was conceived in 1970 and has been awarded 30 times to date. The recipient is chosen annually by the USPA board of Directors and is awarded to an expert sport parachute jumper, active or retired, in recognition of outstanding sportsmanship, skill or personal contribution to both the sport of skydiving and USPA.



Our trustees are on the go . . . did you ever wonder what role our board of trustees plays in the skydiving world? Check it out . . .

Trustee Dana P. Engelstad, CPA, has accepted USPA's appointment as Head of Delegation for the US Parachute Team for The 14th World Cup of Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing to be held in Cordoba, Argentina, May 18th to 26th, 2019. "We are eager to represent the USA and will field a solid group of veterans along with a new face to the US Team," he said. This is Engelstad's third opportunity to serve in Team Leadership in FAI international First Class Events.

Trustee Kirk Knight serves on the Special Operations Command parachute team. The "Para-Commandos" conduct demonstrations near their MacDill, Florida, base and at airshows, sporting events, and community activities across the country. The part-time team is the Department of Defense's only joint team, comprised of select members of the four military services and government civilians serving at SOCOM.

Picture: Knight runs out a landing at Lane Park in Tampa, FL, for the "Warrior Games 100 Days" event after flying in with the national POW/MIA flag. Photo by MSgt Barry Loo.



Trustee Marylou Laughlin went to South Africa to teach an FAI Canopy Piloting Judges Training Course in April. In August, she will be the FAI controller for the Wingsuit World Cup in Ravenna, Italy. She will then immediately head to The Accuracy Nationals in Raeford, North Carolina, where she will be the chief judge and then an event judge for the Canopy Piloting Nationals. Laughlin will be home for a week and return to Raeford for the FS 8 Way Nationals where she will be the USPA controller. In October, she will be the chief judge along with Trustee Gillian Rayner judging the FS Sequential Large Formation Total Break World Record Attempt at Skydive Perris right before the Hall of Fame Celebration. Finishing up the year, Laughlin will be in South Africa in November as a member of the jury for the Canopy Piloting World Cup.

Trustee Gillian Rayner was an FS judge at the 2019 Bodyflight World Challenge from April 5th to 7th in Bedford, UK, and then at the 3rd FAI World Indoor Skydiving Championships from April 17th to 20th, representing IPC but also working with the communications team as a bilingual presenter on the live stream. She will then attend the 14th World Cup of Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing to be held in Cordoba, Argentina, from May 18th to 26th, representing IPC. She also had the privilege of being an off-site judge under the leadership of Trustee Marylou Laughlin for the recent Canopy Formation record jumps, 37-way 2-point jump and a 36-way night jump.

Trustee Lee Schlichtemeier will be the chief judge of Canopy Piloting at the USPA National Parachuting Championships in Raeford, North Carolina, in September 2019. This will be his 11th consecutive year of involvement with the USPA Canopy Piloting National Championships either as chief judge, event judge or principal judge. He has also been a principal or event judge at five prior Category 1 FAI International events, including the Canopy Piloting and Canopy Piloting Freestyle World Championships in Wroclaw, Poland, in 2018.

Director of Development Jim McCormick will be on the team that will be pursuing an Australian National Skydiving Record at Skydive Perris May 31st to June 3rd. "I am honored to be asked to join this team. Australian rules allow a small portion of the team to be from other countries so that means I get to be an honorary Australian. This opportunity is even more significant because the Australian Parachute Federation became the Museum's first International Affiliate last year. I look forward to jumping with my Australian friends." In late May, McCormick will be leading a team jumping into the largest Memorial Day commemoration in Southern California. He will be at Skydive Spaceland Dallas in August for a 42-way invitational event then at Skydive Spaceland Houston in November to be part of the Texas State Sequential Record.