

## *Welcoming the Hall of Fame Classes of 2020 & 2021*



Photo by Randy Forbes

*From left to right: Ian Bobo, Chris Gay, Jeanni McCombs (represented by her children, Kim and Lisa McCombs), Mike McGowan, Roger Nelson (represented by his children, Rook Nelson and Melissa Lowe), Russ Gunby (represented by his daughter Kathleen Gunby), Kirk Verner, Larry Hill, Xiaoli Lai, Paul Rafferty (represented by his brother, Bill Rafferty, and his daughter, Alexis Rafferty Allen), Omar Alhegelan, and Bruce Wicks.*

*Missing from photo are Faye Cox, Bruno Brokken, Lesley Gale and Patrice Girardin. Due to international travel restrictions, they were unable to join us, but we look forward to honoring them at a future HOF ceremony!*

*Check out the weekend activities in the event collage insert!*

### ***A Special Message from Museum President/CEO James F. (Curt) Curtis III . . .***

The International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration just concluded at Skydive Perris was one of our best. Hundreds of supporters joined together to honor two Hall of Fame classes, share cherished memories, and create new ones. The event exuded the energy only 500 skydivers can create.

The day after the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, the Board of Trustees of the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame gathered to take stock of the outcomes of the event and the next steps towards building and opening the Museum & Hall of Fame.

With a plan to break ground late next year at our site in the Orlando area, the process of designing the building needs to get underway. Much discussion and analysis led to a momentous decision. By a unanimous vote, the Board decided to move forward to select the architectural firm that will design the building. Since the October meeting, the Facilities Committee has begun the search process, already having discussions with numerous architectural firms in the Orlando area.

*The project is underway!*

## *Trustee Receives USPA's Highest Honor*

Museum Trustee Marylou Laughlin has been awarded USPA's Lifetime Achievement Award "for unsurpassed selfless contribution to the sport of skydiving and the United States Parachute Association as a leader, competitor, judge and U.S. representative within the international skydiving community." She was unanimously selected for the award during USPA's 2021 summer meeting.

Marylou started skydiving in 1988. She has ferociously advocated for the sport and built upon our competition history. Earning her D license in the same year she began, Marylou has more than 4,400 skydives to date . . . and still counting! She served as the U.S. Parachute Association's northeast regional director from 1999 to 2013 and was a member of the competition committee—later voted in by the board as the chair of the committee and as the delegate to the International Parachuting Commission; she was the chair of the CF committee and also vice president. She is well respected and well loved by her colleagues and peers.

Marylou is secretary for the Board of Trustees of the International Skydiving Museum and serves on the Board's

Executive Committee. She is also chair of the museum's Path of Excellence/Pioneers of Excellence Committee, co-chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee and a member of the Development and Events Committees.

Marylou dominates other activities as well, holding a private pilot's license and a PADI Advanced Open Water certificate.

An energetic and positive skydiver, Marylou continues to improve the sport and help push the boundaries for a bright future in skydiving competitions around the world!

Marylou recently relocated to DeLand, Florida, from Connecticut. She lives with her pet cat (her "child" as she says) Simah.

*Congratulations, Marylou!*



## ***Now Accepting Nominations for the 2022 Hall of Fame and 2022 Pioneers of Excellence . . .***



Nominations are now being accepted for the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Class of 2022 and the 2022 Pioneers of Excellence Award. There will not be a 2022 Path of Excellence Award as the 2020 recipients, the World Team 2006—400-Way Largest Formation World Record, will be honored at the 2022 Hall of Fame Celebration in DeLand, Florida.

Only nominations received at museum headquarters by December 31, 2021, will be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame Class of 2022. The committee will deliberate at its meeting in February 2022 in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those who, through leadership, innovation and/or outstanding achievements, have defined, promoted, and advanced skydiving at the highest and sustained levels such that

they have made it possible for generations of skydivers to enjoy the sport.

Nominations for the Pioneers of Excellence (POE) Award are due at museum headquarters by March 15, 2022. The Pioneers of Excellence, added in 2021 to recognize entities that contributed in the 70s and earlier, is specifically for entities—groups, companies, organizations or teams—for significant contribution(s) of enduring high value to the world of skydiving.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame or the Pioneers of Excellence, please visit our website for further details and a nomination form, or contact Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm, Museum Administrator. All nominations will be kept confidential.



## ★★★ Three Stars!



Some of our Ambassadors enjoy encouraging others to become Ambassadors. Each time they cause three Ambassadors to join, they are “promoted” by adding a star to their designation. When an Ambassador joins then brings along two more for a total of three, they become One Star Ambassadors.

When they inspire three more Ambassadors to join the team after that, they become a Two Star Ambassador. Many of our Ambassadors have earned the vaunted Two Star designation. They include Kirk Knight, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler, Doug Pinkham, Larry Stein, Donna Wardean-Dann, and Bruce Wicks.

*We now have a Three Star Ambassador!* Trustee Pat Thomas is the first Ambassador to earn a third star. We applaud and thank Pat for her energy and persistence in now causing a total of nine people to become Ambassadors. No doubt, others will soon follow her lead.

## Sponsored Ambassadors

You can honor a friend, mentor or superstar when you sponsor them as an Ambassador. So far, 12 Ambassadors have joined the ranks due to the kindness of others. They include pioneers, sweethearts, idols, wives, role models and longtime friends. For information on how you can become or sponsor an Ambassador, contact Jim McCormick at +1.970.577.8700 or [jm@SkydivingMuseum.org](mailto:jm@SkydivingMuseum.org) or visit [www.skydivingmuseum.org/support/our-ambassadors](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org/support/our-ambassadors).

Thank you to our 173 Ambassadors! Jack Adkins, Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Curt Bachman, Cindi Bagley, Larry K. Bagley, Danielle Barlow, Stephanie Baptiste\*, Johnny R. Bateman, Donald Beach, Lena Bengtsson, Betty Bennett, Richard “Buzz” Bennett, John Benoit, Kerry Bentley, Jessica Blay, Robert Bonitz, Peter Bourdon, Jerry Bourquin, Eric “Ric” Braman, Stephen P. Briggs, Vikki Herst Brooks, David (Dave) Bullen, Sherry Butcher, Manley C. Butler, Jr., Christopher Clark, Debbe Collingwood (in memory of Chuck Collingwood), Robert A. Compton, Ben Conatser, Diane Conatser\*, Melanie Conatser, Patrick Conatser, Kate Cooper-Jensen, Ray Cottingham, Ben Currin, Ann Curtis, James F. (Curt) Curtis III\*, Eric Daniel, Ginger Davis, Brian Day O’Connor, Robert Domeier, David Dow, Dave DuMais, Jack Dunn, Mike Dyer, Fess Edwards, Kim Emmons-Knor, Dana Engelstad, Alan Eustace, Nancy Fayard, Paul Fayard, Robert Feldman, Mike Fisher, Philip F. Flynn, Elizabeth Foster, Cris Fucci\*, Chris Gay, Jerry Gleim, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler\*\*, David Harper, Ralph Hatley, David TK Hayes, Janine Hayes, Tom “Capt 36” Hayes, Larry Henderson, John Higgins\*, Sarah Henderson (in memory of Frank Halcromb), Mike Horan, Kathryn W. Huff, Jeremiah “Jerry” Jackson, Nina Jackson, Christopher “CJ” Johnson, Carol Jones, Michael S. Kearns, Roger Kidd, Al King, Joe Kittinger, Sherry Kittinger, Kirk Knight\*\*, Peter Kramer, Xiaoli Lai, Ray Lallo, Marylou Laughlin\*, Lionel Lavenue, Robert V. “Bob” Lewis, Bob MacDonald, Marshall Madden, J. Russ Manhold, John Marcaccio, Don Mayer, Trudy McComsey (in memory of Handsome Dave DeWolf), Jim McCormick, Cathy Miller\*, Linda Miller\*, Alicia Moorehead, Pat Moorehead\*, Mike Mullins, Tanya Murnock, Dan Myers (in memory of Kathy Barry), Chris Needels\*, George Nisson, Linnea Norby, Norm Olson, Pete Olson, Mike Oolman, Susan Perkins Stark, Doug Pinkham\*\*, Steve Pisano, Suzanne Poppenhager, Lenny Potts, Jack Pylant, Gillian Rayner, James N. Rees Jr., Sandy Reid, Tom Reiman, Simon Repton, Robert “Rhyno” Rhyneanson, Pete Ritzow, Barbara Roquemore, Dan Rosenthal, Stephen Salisbury, Tim Saltonstall, Laurie “Truck” Sams SC. OAM, Lew Sanborn, Carol Schlachteimeier, Lee Schlachteimeier\*, Shari Schmidt, Bill Schmitt, Adam Schmucker, Nathan Schmucker, William “Tripp” Schwab III, Lee Sewell, Lisa Simpson, Dillon Smith, Jackie Smith, Deke Sonnichsen, Adrian Spence\*, SFC Larry Stafford, USA, Ret., Cheryl Stearns, Larry Stein\*\*, Jay Stokes, Fran Strimenos, Robert W. Stumm, John Szumila, Tiffany Szumila, Mallory Tarcher, Kathleen Anne Terry, Bill Thetford, Larry Thomas, Pat Thomas\*\*, Landon K. Thorne, Paula Thues, Jo Timmsen, Louis Tommaso, Laura Tyler, Beverly Veley (in memory of Bob Veley), Ed Vickery, Kristin Vines, Chris Wagner, Donna Wardean-Dann\*\*, Tim Weible, Billy Whitaker, Bruce Wicks\*\*, Fred Williams, Dick Williams (in memory of Joan Williams), Chris Windsor, Graeme Windsor\*, David “Woody” Woodhouse, Jan Works (in memory of Pat Works), Marilyn Wuest, Gary Young, and Ron Zais.

\*Has recruited at least 2 Ambassadors; \*\*Has recruited at least 5 Ambassadors; \*\*\*Has recruited at least 8 Ambassadors



George Nisson (left) and Ben Currin in their Ambassador jerseys at the 2021 HOF Celebration.

**Chuting Times is a biannual newsletter for museum supporters and volunteers.**

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Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm  
*Museum Administrator*  
[nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org](mailto:nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org)

International Skydiving Museum  
& Hall of Fame  
1648 Taylor Road, Suite 514  
Port Orange, FL 32128  
Phone: (407) 900-9997



### ***That's a Legacy!***

Many of our loyal supporters have included the museum in their estate plans. When we are informed of their graciousness, they become members of our *Legacy Society*.

The irrepressible “**Handsome**” **Dave DeWolf** was just such a member of the Society. We recently learned that Dave continues to have the ability to put smiles on people’s faces when we received a substantial gift from his estate. Thank you, Dave. We’re honored to be part of your legacy.

For information on how you can become a member of the Legacy Society, contact Jim McCormick at +1.970.577.8700 or [jm@SkydivingMuseum.org](mailto:jm@SkydivingMuseum.org) or visit [www.skydivingmuseum.org/support/legacy-society](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org/support/legacy-society).

*Thank you to members of our Legacy Society: Anonymous, The Captain/Martin Family Trust, Randy Connell, James F. (Curt) Curtis III, Dave DeWolf, Robert and Jeanine Feldman, Jack and Renee Gregory, Johnny Higgins, Don Jenkins, Michael Shawn Kearns, Kirk Knight, Carol Laithwaite (on behalf of Brian Laithwaite), Linda Miller, Chris Needels, William H. Ottley Charitable Fund, Lenny Potts, Sandy R. & Brenda G. Reid/The Reid Trust, Gregory P. Robertson, Larry Stein, Jo Timmsen, and Pat Works.*

### ***2022 Hall of Fame Celebration—Skydive DeLand, DeLand, Florida***



Mark your calendars for **October 6–8, 2022**, for the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration at Skydive DeLand, Deland, Florida, USA. We will be honoring the Hall of Fame Class of 2022 (to be selected in February 2022)—nominations are due by December 31st; the 2020 Path of Excellence Recipients, the World Team 2006—400-Way Largest Formation World Record, and the 2022 Pioneers of Excellence (nominations due March 15th). We expect over 500 people from across the globe to join us as we once again welcome our international friends to the event. We will also be recognizing those international Hall of Fame inductees from 2020 and 2021 who could not join us in 2021.

We will have room blocks on our website by early January. Please consider making your reservations early as we expect a large group. **Please note** that we plan to have both the Friday night BBQ and the Hall of Fame Banquet in Daytona Beach. The banquet will be at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. The Hilton is about a 25-minute drive from Skydive DeLand. We will also be having a demo jump on the beach.

When available, you can find room block information at [www.skydivingmuseum.com](http://www.skydivingmuseum.com); click on Celebration and Lodging.

These are the hotels where room blocks will be available:

#### Daytona Beach

- ♦ Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort
- ♦ Daytona Grande Oceanfront Resort
- ♦ Hard Rock Hotel

#### DeLand

- ♦ Courtyard DeLand Historic Downtown
- ♦ Hampton Inn & Suites
- ♦ Comfort Inn & Suites, DeLand