2018 Hall of Fame Celebration Memories!

Photos by Andrey Veselov
“We’re going to need a bigger tent!” President and CEO James F. “Curt” Curtis III made this comment when he eyed the dinner venue at ZHills and looked at the size of the list for the induction ceremony. And so a bigger one was ordered, and the more than 400 people who registered signified a record-breaking crowd for the ninth annual event on the weekend of Nov. 1–3. The event is projected to raise more than $100,000 for the museum fund.

Not only were there more people attending, there were more events, more activities, more seminars, and more participants, as well as the “Jumpers Over Seventy” (JOS) world record attempt for formation skydiving. The elder skydivers did not get a record, but they had fun trying (despite a washout rainstorm), and they managed to fill nearly seven tables at the Saturday night banquet and induction ceremony.

This year’s class of 10 incoming Hall of Famers was the largest since the inaugural of 2010. Ray Cottingham, Daryl Henry, Leslie Irvin (posthumously, represented by Rob Sinclair and Elizabeth Johnson of Airborne Systems), Susan Hunter-Joerns, Domina C. Jalbert (posthumously, represented by his grandson Craig Oldre), Tony Uragallo, and Suzie Hunter-Joerns (Photo by Andrey Veselov) were honored at the dinner gala sponsored by PIA.

Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Class of 2018! (from left) Daryl Henry (represented by friend Buzz Bennett), Henny Wiggers, Coy O. McDonald Jr., Ray Cottingham, Jay Stokes, Roger Ponce de Leon, Leslie Irvin (represented by Rob Sinclair and Elizabeth Johnson of Airborne Systems), Dom Jalbert (represented by his grandson Craig Oldre), Tony Uragallo, and Suzie Hunter-Joerns (Photo by Andrey Veselov)

The “For the Legends” Freestyle Canopy Piloting Meet Powered by Sun Path drew a large contingent of spectators who lined up to watch high-speed pond swooping. The meet was also supported by Kenneth Wasley/Children of Fallen Heroes and Superior Flight Solutions/Greg Windmiller. The sponsors gave away $10,000 in prize money to competitors in several categories. The three rounds of Freestyle winners were first place—Curt Bartholomew; second place—Max Kossidowski; and third place—Jay Sanders. The Raft landing was won by Max Manow and Matt Leonard; the Inductee Choice was won by Curt Bartholomew, Jay Sanders, and Jesse Weyher.

The weekend’s activities also included the SkyHigh Forum by Joe Kittinger, Alan Eustace, and Art Thompson (sponsored by Para Gear Equipment Co.) and the Canopy Piloting Forum featuring Ian Bobo and Albert Berchtold. Kittinger, Norman Olson and Hall of Famers Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld and Jackie Smith held a book signing, and “Gear Thru the Years,” an annual fashion-show presentation, was sponsored by the Parachute Industry Association and Dave DeWolf.

Written by Doug Garr