Dj Associates, Inc.

Joins the museum’s Falcon Club

A special thank you to Dj Associates, Inc., owners Jean Beck and her son Mike Beck who have pledged $25,000 to the museum.

Since 1976, Dj Associates has been a proven supplier of high quality parachute and military hardware for a variety of industries all over the world specializing in small quantity orders of webbing, tapes, nylon, hook & loop fasteners, backpack hardware, buckles, loops & slides, cargo restraints, straps, cable ties, commercial aircraft seatbelt components, stainless steel, plastic and black hardware.

Dj Associates was born “with a huge tightening of the belt and a prayer or two” in the garage of Jean and Don Beck in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Armed with years of experience in the parachute industry, Don wanted to fulfill a lifelong dream and to improve customer service. The company would sell to “the cut and sew” industry. Anyone with a sewing machine, an empty garage, and an idea was a potential customer.

Through his business conversations, Don soon realized the parachute industry needed a louder voice. In January 1977, Parachute Equipment Industry Association was formed with Don serving as chairman. In 1985, the name was changed to Parachute Industry Association (PIA).

In 1982, Dj Associates moved into a converted horse barn situated on four acres on the outskirts of town with room for expansion. That same year, they acquired three companies in the Paris, Texas in the background music and sound industry.

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Today, both Mike and Jean continue at the helm of Dj Associates and are closely involved with PIA activities. Jean says that if Don were here today, he would look around, be very pleased at how far we have all come, but ever the optimist, would say, “It can only get better.”

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Thelma “Tee” Taylor made her first parachute jump in 1963 and continued to jump in the Dallas area while she worked as a flight attendant for American Airlines. In the 1963 Nationals, Tee qualified for the US Team, and participated in the World Meet in Leutkirch, Germany winning first place in style, placed in accuracy, and won the Individual Women’s Championship. She also competed in the 1964 Nationals in Salt Lake City.

Bill Booth took up skydiving in 1965 and became an instructor in 1967. In 1972, he started United Parachute Technologies, a parachute manufacturing company now located in DeLand, FL. Bill has been awarded 12 US and foreign patents for skydiving safety systems. In the 1990s, he formed Polar Expeditions, Inc. and with his Russian partners led six parachuting expeditions through Siberia to the North Pole.

The late Uwe Beckmann of Germany was an active participant in the CIP (International Parachuting Committee) of the FAI. He participated in discussions of early relative work events, including but not limited to relays and stars. In 1994, he was awarded the FAI Gold Parachuting Medal, “for an outstanding accomplishment in connection with parachuting.” In 1979, he collaborated in the CIP (International Parachuting Committee) of the FAI. He introduced collegiate competition. In 1957, with Lew Sanborn as VP, he created the world’s first private parachute company.

The late Lenny Potts officially began his skydiving career in 1952 in New Jersey with the US Special Forces and his civilian skydiving career in 1958. By the time he officially retired from skydiving, he had logged 3,500 jumps and participated in competitions both in the states and abroad. In the late 60’s and 70’s, Lenny served as the USPA’s FAA liaison on Capitol Hill. His personal persuasiveness was instrumental during the growing years of the USPA.
A special thank you to those donors who, cumulatively, have contributed more than $25,000 to the National Skydiving Museum.

Bill Ottley Circle ($1 million & beyond)
William H. Ottley
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Thank you to members of our "Legacy Society" who have included the National Skydiving Museum in their Will
James F. (Curt) Curtis
Jack and Renee Gregory
Steve and Trudy Groten
Michael Shawn Kearns
Chris Needels
William H. Ottley Charitable Fund
Lennyotts
Cari Laithwaite
(on behalf of Brian Laithwaite)

2010 Donations
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Chuting Times is a biannual newsletter for museum supporters and volunteers
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The National Skydiving Museum gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its donors in 2010. *We regret any errors or omissions in this list.* If you note an error or missing name, please contact us at remembering@skydivingmuseum.org so we may correct our records.

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- **The Bolder Media Group**
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- **U.S. Army Parachute Team**
- **“Golden Knight”**
- **United States Air Force Academy**
- **Skydive Long Island in Calverton**

### In Memory of...

- **Doric Lee Johnson**
- **James F. Curtis**
- **Joe Kittinger**
- **John & Marge Foster**
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- **Silver ($1,000—$2,499)**
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- **James F. Curtis, Jack and Renee Gregory, Michael Shamm Teach, Chris Needles, William H. Ottley Charitable Fund, Dan Poynter, Lenny Potts, Caro Laithwaite**

### Thank You to Our "Living Donors" Who Have...

- **Parachute Real Estate Holdings, LLC**
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- **Raeford Aviation/Gene Paul Thacker**
- **William H. Ottley Charitable Fund**
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- **Bryan Scott**
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### National Skydiving Museum

- **5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd Frederickburg, VA 22407**
- **Phone: (540) 694-9700**
- **Email: nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org

### The National Skydiving Museum

- **VISIT www.skydivingmuseum.org" Presenting the Dream of Human Flight**
DJ Associates, Inc.

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The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is Saturday, November 12th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the National Skydiving Museum Hall of Fame in Washington, DC. RSVP on enclosed registration form. (You can learn more about each inductee on page 4.) Visit www.skydivingmuseum.org