Jan Collmer and Norm Ellickson Earn ICAS Special Achievement Awards

From time to time, ICAS presents its Special Achievement Award to an individual or organization that it would like to recognize for making a special contribution to the air show business. This year, two longstanding fixtures in the air show community were honored at the 2014 Chairman's Banquet.

Jan Collmer has been a fixture in the air show business for many years. He is known by his air show colleagues as a talented, reliable performer with a flair for showmanship and professional demeanor.

H. Ross Perot, Jr. joined 2014 ICAS delegates at this year's Chairman's Banquet to present the award to Doreen Hillard, a friend of Jan's from Fort Worth, Tex., who accepted the Special Achievement Award on Jan's behalf, as he was unable to travel.

"I've heard from the people at ICAS that Jan may well be the most prolific provider of aerobatic rides in the air show business ever," said Perot, Jr. "He is passionate about your business and a tireless advocate for air shows, specifically, and general aviation more broadly. From my perspective as an interested observer, Jan personifies all that is good and inspiring about the air show business."



Jan Collmer, 2014 Special Achievement Award Winner



Norm Ellickson, 2014 Special Achievement Award Winner

Norm Ellickson, along with the other founding members of the Yankee Air Force, mortgaged their homes in 1986 to buy the B-17 Flying Fortress, Yankee Lady, beginning a love affair that has lasted nearly 30 years.

In addition to keeping his lady in tip-top shape and on the road at air shows all summer long for nearly three decades, Norm has become an accessible, friendly, subject matter expert for anybody with a question or concern about their own Flying Fortress.

"Norm has earned this recognition for the passion he brings to his work with warbirds and the people who maintain and fly them. His enthusiasm for helping anybody who needs his expertise is infectious," said Rob Reider, air show announcer and banquet emcee. "For all the good work he and the Yankee Air

Museum have done to help keep America's vintage military aircraft flying and accessible to the public, we owe him our gratitude."