

Master Pilot Award
Franklin F. Sherman

“Just to put things into context, from as early as I can remember I wanted to fly”. These are the words our next recipient used to begin the biography that he submitted for this award. On graduation from High School his ambition was to become a flight instructor. That goal, however took 34 years to achieve.

Frank soloed in 1946 at Mineral Spring Airport in Lincoln, Rhode Island; He received his Private Pilot Certificate in 1949 at that same airport.

In the early 50's Frank became a member of the Rhode Island Civil Air Patrol located at Smithfield Airport, Rhode Island. It wasn't until 1971 however that Frank attained his Commercial Pilot Certificate.

During the interim period Frank served in the United States Air Force. He also fell in love and married his wife Janet. Together they have raised three children.

When North Central Airport opened Frank began to think, once again about an aeronautical career.

Eventually, after decades of flying rental aircraft, often times paid for by trading his carpentry skills for flight time, Frank became a Certified Flight Instructor in 1980, and an Instrument Flight Instructor in 1981.

In 1987 Frank became the Chief Flight Instructor for the FAA Approved, Part 141 Flight School operated by SkyLANES Incorporated at North Central Airport.

Not one to stop learning, Frank continued on to become an Advanced Ground Instructor in 1992, and then earned his Single Engine Seaplane rating in 1994.

Frank has been a member of the Pawtucket Squadron of Civil Air Patrol;

Lieutenant Commander of Junior Naval Cadets of America, Air Academy at North Central Airport, and he is a past President of the Rhode Island Pilots Association.

He has been a designated Aviation Safety Counselor for the Boston FSDO since 1994, and continues to conduct his safety seminar entitled “Memory Joggers” each month at North Central Airport;

Frank was selected as the Boston FSDO Certified Flight Instructor of the Year in both 1998 and most recently for the year 2004.

It is privilege and an honor to present the United States of America, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award to Franklin F. Sherman.