

Master Pilot Award
Norman J. Bishop

This recipient of the Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award is currently celebrating his 68th year of flying. Yes, he began flying in 1937.

Norm soloed at the Smithfield Airport on January 8, 1938 in an OX-5 Commandaire Bi-plane.

He earned his Commercial Pilot Certificate in June 1941, just six months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Norm then moved to Ironstone, Massachusetts where he rented a field and made it into an airport. He bought some airplanes and was in business. This is where Norman Bishop thought he would build his career of flying and teaching.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 all of the private airfields on the East Coast were closed. So, Norm sold his airplanes and moved to Florida as a member of the Army Air Corps Enlisted Reserve, and trained in Boeing PT-17s.

He was then sent to Embry Riddle to teach Army Air Corps Cadets to fly PT-17s, PT-13s and AT-6s.

Norm holds a Commercial Pilot Certificate with Airplane – Single engine and Multiengine and Instrument Rating. He is also a Certified Flight Instructor.

When the war ended Norm returned to Rhode Island to become the Chief Pilot for a flight training company at Providence. Eventually Norm took over the company and changed the name to EastAir, which became a full service FBO.

While running EastAir, Norm became an FAA Pilot Examiner, bought and sold aircraft, and did charter flying in Cessna 182s and Cessna 310s.

After several years Norm leased the company, but retained the aircraft sales business, with which he is still involved.

Today we are proud to recognize Norm for his 68 years, and approximately 17,500 hours of accident free flying. He is a great asset to the aviation community. And, it is an honor to present the United States of America, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award to Norman Judson Bishop.