

2012 Montgolfier Diploma Nomination

For

Contributions to the Sport of Ballooning

Jim Birk



The basis for this nomination is the many years of important contributions that Jim Birk has made to the sport of ballooning, especially in regards to competition.

General Information

Jim started his career in ballooning in 1970 and soon got involved in event organizing and directing competitive events. Jim has served our sport for over 40 years and he is truly a master and sage of competition ballooning.

Jim has been the U.S. National Championship director eight times, North American Championship director three times and the World Championship director in 1995. Jim has been the championship director at over 100 major balloon events in the United States. He had an incredible knack for developing challenging tasks and keeping our pilots at the top of the sport of competition ballooning. There is no question that his dedication to our sport has helped in keeping U.S. competition pilots' domination in World and other major events around the world.

Pilot

- World Championship Invitations – 1975, 1977, 1987, 1989, 1993
- World Championship 6th place finish – 1991
- Member of U.S. World Team – 1982, 1983, 1985, 1991
- 1991 Top Ranked U.S. pilot
- P.I.C. since 1970, over 4000 hours

Director and Staff Member

- Director of the Great Texas Balloon Race 1993 – present
- Director of the Michigan Challenge 1994 – present
- Championship Director BFA Nationals – 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1989, 2012
- Assistant Championship Director BFA Nationals – 1990, 1992
- Championship Director for North American Championships – 1990, 1992, 1995
- Championship Director for 1995 World Championship
- Director Battle Creek International Hot Air Balloon Event – 1992, 1993, 1994
- Championship Director Battle Creek Michigan Field of Flight – 1995 – present
- Director North American Balloon Association National Championships – 1999 – 2007
- Championship Director U.S. Team Championships – 1995 – 1998
- Director of North American Balloon Association National Championships 1999, 2000

Awards and Service

- Past Chairman of the Board, BFA American Events Committee
- Past Chairman of the Board, Competition Division, BFA
- Past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the North American Ballooning Association
- Recipient of 8 President's Awards
- Recipient of 8 Director's Awards
- Recipient of the Shields-Trauger Award, 1986
- Recipient of the Albert Desmond Award, 1991

Because of all of Jim Birk's above mentioned contributions and accomplishments to the sport of ballooning, I can think of no one more deserving of the Montgolfier Diploma than Jim Birk.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Sullivan



January 2, 2013

Mr. Jean-Marc Bedan
Secretary General
Federation Aeronautique Internationale

Bonjour Jean-Marc:

Please accept the attached nomination of Jim Berk, United States of America, for the 2012 Montgolfier Diploma Nomination in the category of "Contribution to the Development of the Sport of Ballooning in General."

We are very proud of the 4 decades of service that Mr. Berk has dedicated to the wonderful air sport of ballooning.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

Merci,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a 'G' and a flourish.

Jonathan Gaffney
President and CEO

Cc: Balloon Federation of America