

September 18, 2024

Darrell E, Bolduc  
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To; The Minnesota Aviation Hall of fame Board of Directors

It is with great pleasure that I nominate John Sandberg to the MN Aviation Hall of Fame. In 1969 John started an aircraft engine rebuilding business called Metma Aircraft. In 1970 I started working for him rebuilding piston engines of many different types. It was then when I discovered his passion for aviation. It was almost 24 hours a day.

His company rebuilt; Lycoming, Continental, Franklin engines, Pratt & Whitney and Wright Radial engines up to and including R-1820 engines for DC-3 aircraft and UH-34 helicopters, And of course Allison V12 engines.

During the period that I worked there (1970 to 1975), John was also rebuilding a damaged World War 11 Bell P-63 King Cobra aircraft. His goal was to race it in the unlimited championship Air races in Reno Nevada. In 1973 he did exactly that. It was a joy for me to help in the rebuilding Process of the P-63 and take part at the Reno air races as a member of the pit crew. The P-63 didn't Perform in the race very well because the Allison engine couldn't produce the power that the P-51 Merlin engine could produce. It was that simple. As of that result, John decided to build a special Airplane just for racing at Reno and maybe set some speed records. He did that and he called it the Tsunami. It was fast! It had a Merlin engine in it.

In 1975 I left Metma aircraft and went to work for my father at Bolduc Aviation Services at Crystal Airport. John and I remained good friends and I flew with him in some of his planes including his P-51 Mustang. In 1979 he sold to me part of his engine rebuilding business. With Johns help is how I got started with my company, Bolduc Aviation Specialized service. I can't thank John enough, he was that kind of person.

In 1992 John died in his Tsunami returning from the Reno air races. In my view John Sandberg was an exceptional individual and it's a honor for me to nominate him into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Darrell E. Bolduc  
2018 MN Aviation Hall of Fame inductee  
2010-2016 MN Aviation Hall of Fame Board Member