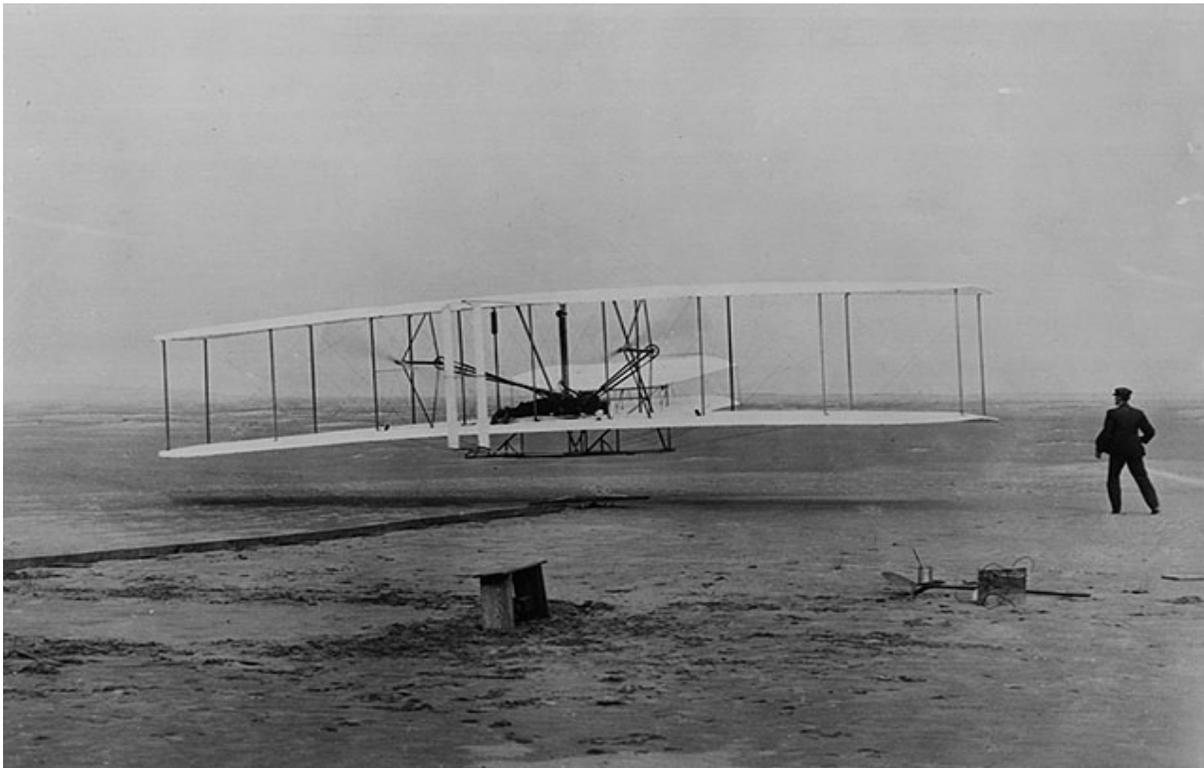


**WRIGHT BROTHERS  
MASTER PILOT  
AWARD**  
*Information Guide*



**December 3, 2021**

**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Flight Standards Service – General Aviation & Commercial Division**

## 1. PURPOSE

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award (MPA) Program recognizes individuals who have 50 or more years of safe piloting experience or 50 or more years combined experience in both safe piloting and aircraft operations. This information guide:

- Describes the award,
- Describes the eligibility requirements,
- Explains how to submit a nomination, and
- Explains the selection process of candidates for the award.

## 2. CANCELLATION

**FAA/FA-I-8700-2 (Rev. 5), The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Information Guide dated August 23, 2021 is cancelled.**

## 3. BACKGROUND

The Wright Brothers *Master Pilot Award*—is named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright who were two American aviation pioneers credited with inventing, building, and flying the world's first successful motor-operated airplane. The Wright Brothers made the first controlled, sustained flight of a powered, heavier-than-air aircraft with the Wright Flyer on December 17, 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The brothers were also the first to invent aircraft controls that made fixed-wing powered flight possible.

## 4. DESCRIPTION

The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award is the most prestigious award the FAA issues to pilots certified under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 61. This award, named after the Wright Brothers, is to recognize individuals who have exhibited exemplary aviation expertise, distinguished professionalism, and steadfast commitment for at least 50 years of piloting experience or 50 or more years combined experience in both piloting and aircraft operations. A distinctive certificate and the airman's Blue Ribbon package is issued after application review and eligibility requirements have been met. Upon request, a lapel pin and/or plaque for the award recipient is available for purchase and a second lapel pin is also available to purchase for the award recipient's spouse in recognition of his or her support to the recipient's aviation career. Once the award has been issued, the recipient's name, city and state will be added to a published "Roll of Honor" located at <https://www.faasafety.gov/content/MasterPilot/RecipientList.aspx>.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a U.S. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pilot certificate.
- Have 50 or more years of civil and military piloting experience or 50 or more years combined experience in both piloting and aircraft operations.
- Up to 20 years of the required 50 years may be U.S. military experience.
- The effective start date for the 50 years is the date of the nominee's first solo flight or military equivalent.
- The 50 years may be computed consecutively or non-consecutively.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have NOT had any airman certificate revoked. Revocation of any airman certificate will disqualify a nominee for this award.

## 6. NOMINATION SUBMISSION

Any person who meets the eligibility requirements, or a sponsor on behalf of the eligible person, may apply for the award by submitting a nomination package to the FAASTeam Program Manager (FPM) at the nearest Flight Standards District Office (FSDO). The nomination package must consist of the following documents:

- A completed Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award (MPA) Nomination Form:
  - The Wright Brothers MPA Nomination Form can be found in this document and at: [Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award Information Guide](#).
- Nominee's piloting experience or combined piloting experience and aircraft operations history:
  - Can be a detailed description, resume, or company records.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation:
  - Must be from holders of FAA pilot certificates who can attest to the nominee's 50 years or more of piloting experience or 50 or more years combined experience in both piloting and aircraft operations. See sample letter attached to this document.

## 7. NOMINATION ACCEPTANCE

A FAASTeam Program Manager (FPM) will verify the nomination is complete and that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements listed within this document. Verification of eligibility is performed by obtaining initial certification information through the FAA Airman Certification Branch in the form of a Blue Ribbon package, and reviewing the enforcement investigation database. Additional information or an interview by the FPM may be necessary to verify a nominee's qualifications. If there is any question as to whether the nominee qualifies for the award, the National FAASTeam Manager shall be the final authority.

Additional notes on nomination acceptance:

- A current flight review or medical certificate is not required at the time of nomination.
- Prior accident history is not necessarily disqualifying but will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Prior enforcement actions (excluding revocation) are not necessarily disqualifying but will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- The award may be presented to a nominee up to 3 years posthumously if the nominee has acquired 50 years of U.S. piloting experience or 50 or more years combined experience in both piloting and aircraft operations prior to passing away.
- Nominations will take a minimum of 60 days to be accepted.

## 8. ISSUANCE OF THE AWARD

Presentation - The FPM will contact the applicant or sponsor to schedule the award presentation. The FPM will make every effort to arrange a public presentation at a suitable FAA or industry function. An appropriate FAA representative shall present the award to the nominee at the event.

Roll of Honor – The nominee's name, city and state of residence plus the month and year of the Master Pilot Award presentation will be posted to the electronic Roll of Honor after the award has been presented.

# WRIGHT BROTHERS MASTER PILOT AWARD

## Sample Letter of Recommendation

*(Date)*

*(Nearest FAA FSDO or FAAS Team Program Manager Address)*

Attn: *(FSDO Manager or FAAS Team Program Manager)*

I have known *(Nominee's name)* for *(number of years known)* years and highly recommend him/her for the Wright Brother's Master Pilot Award. I have known him/her to always operate in a safe and professional manner in both piloting and aircraft operations, be of good moral character and an outstanding individual who is respected in the aviation community.

My knowledge and association with the nominee consists of *(state your affiliation with the nominee, i.e., Work associate, personal business, friendship, etc.)*

I hold a pilot certificate number *(certificate number)*.

Respectfully submitted,

*(Signed name)*

*(Printed name)*

*(Address)*

*(E-mail address)*

*(Best contact Phone number)*

# WRIGHT BROTHERS MASTER PILOT AWARD NOMINATION FORM

**Nominee's Full Name (as it should appear on award certificate)**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information

	Nominee	Sponsor (if applicable)
Name	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____
City	_____	_____
State	_____	_____
Zip	_____	_____
Home/Work Phone	_____	_____
Cell Phone	_____	_____
E-mail address	_____	_____

## Nominee's Airman Information

Pilot certificate number \_\_\_\_\_

Highest grade of pilot certificate and ratings \_\_\_\_\_

Original solo or military equivalent

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make/Model Aircraft \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Training organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

50 or more years of piloting experience or 50 or more years combined experience in both piloting and aircraft operations to be considered for this award:

Beginning Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ending Date \_\_\_\_\_

This award is being presented as a Surprise to the nominee.

***Nomination Package Check List***

- Completed Wright Brothers MPA Nomination Form (this form)
- Nominee's piloting history or combined experience in piloting and aircraft operations history (Resume or Biography)
- Three letters of recommendation

***Please forward this nomination package to your nearest FAASTeam Program Manager for processing: Your Area FAASTeam Program Manager's name and contact information can be located at [FAASafety.gov](http://FAASafety.gov)***

***or***

***Submit the nomination package to your local FAA Flight Standards District Office.***