



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of CLIFFORD (CLIFF) TELFORD

June 27, 1933 - July 10, 2005



Written by AMA Staff (11/2005); Transcribed and reformatted by JS (09/2010); Updated by JS (04/2019)

Career:

- 1953-1958: U.S. Air Force
- 1960s: Served in the U.S. Navy
- Pilot for Eastern Airlines
- Devised 1960s numbering system for Contest Board rules proposals
- FAI Executive Committee Control Line member and FAI Control Line Team Selection Committee member (1963-1964)
- 1964-1966: Chair of Control Line Contest Board
- 1966-1970: AMA District IV Vice President
- 1967-1970: First Chair of AMA Scholarship Committee
- 1960s-1970s: RC Pylon Racing competition and Contest Directing
- District of Columbia R/C Club Executive Committee member

Honors:

- 1966, 1992: AMA Distinguished Service Award recipient twice
- After his passing, a scholarship in his name was developed, the Cliff Telford Scholarship Fund. It was renamed later the Cliff and Nancy Telford Scholarship Fund.
- 2018: Inducted into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame.
- 2018: Inducted into the NMPRA Hall of Fame

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Cliff Telford was a modeler from early childhood and was especially talented in gaining the maximum performance from production engines. He excelled in Control Line Speed categories and later in FAI Pylon, Formula I, and Quickie racing events.

He pursued his aeromodeling interests throughout his education at the University of Cincinnati, service to his country in the US Air Force, and his years in commercial aviation as a pilot for Eastern Air Lines.

One of the highlights of his modeling career was winning the Sopwith Trophy (at the FAI Pylon Racing Championships) three times as part of the TV (Telford/Bob Violet) Team in 1972, 1973, and 1974.

Cliff continued his Pylon Racing interests with his son, Drew. He competed for many years in the AMA Nats events and later became the director of that prestigious contest. He also worked with the AMA Scholarship Committee for 30 years.

Cliff is survived by his wife, Nancy; children Drew, Cathy, and Todd; and grandchildren Taylor and Connor.

Remembrance donations can be sent to the AMA Scholarship Fund, 5161 E. Memorial Dr, Muncie IN 47302, or the National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, New York NY 10003.

-AMA Headquarters

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AMA History Project
National Model Aviation Museum
5151 E. Memorial Dr.
Muncie IN 47302
(765) 287-1256, ext. 511
historyproject@modelaircraft.org

