
Autobiography of HURST BOWERS

Lifespan: 1924 – December 15, 2004

Written by Model Aviation staff (04/05)

Formatted by JS (02/08)

The following was written by Model Aviation magazine staff and published in the April 2005 issue.

Hurst Bowers passed away December 15, 2004. He was the founder of Flyline Models who, along with Herb Klukey, produced more than 30 “schoolyard scale” model kits in the 1970s and 1980s.

A retired Air Force colonel, Hurst was a B-25 pilot in 1944 – 1945, served as Air Attaché at the U.S. Embassies in Paris, France and in Delhi, India. Late in his career, Hurst served tours in Vietnam and at the Pentagon. He retired in 1972 after 30 years of distinguished service.

Hurst was a member of the DC Maxcutters club, the Flying Aces Club, the Capital Area Antique Modelers Association, and the Daedalus Society. He was inducted into the Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 1992.

Close friend Don Srull wrote, “He was an inspiration and mentor to those lucky to have known him. His infectious smile and spirit were special. Hurst was an ardent modeler and aviation enthusiast, but more importantly a warm, gentle, and generous human being.”

Hurst designed, built, and flew all types of models including Old-Timers, Free Flight Sport, and Radio Control models, but his favorite type was Scale modeling. He published many model designs in various American, French, and British magazines, and was particularly fond of vintage aircraft.

Hurst’s neatness and immaculate workshop were legendary. “To us mess makers, this neatness was symbolic of the perfection of his models,” wrote another close friend, John Hunton. “He had a three-view in his files of almost any airplane that ever existed. He would organize a file into the order into which he would build his models.”

Hurst Bowers was asked to create the model displays and design the Lee Renaud Memorial Library when AMA built its Headquarters building in Reston, Virginia, in 1981 - 1982.

John Hunton remembered his friend with this tribute: “While the passing of Hurst Bowers is painful to all of us, having known him has enlarged our hearts, and his spirit will be with us for time to come.”