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Lifetime Aviation Entrepreneur Passes Away After 50 Years of Success in the Aviation Industry.

Phillip M. Coleman - June 20th, 1938 to April 27th, 2006

Salem, OR – May 1, 2006 – On a Cub Scout outing near his boyhood hometown of Glencoe, Illinois, Philip Coleman took his first airplane flight. The impression that flight made on the young “Phil” Coleman inspired a career and a lifetime of achievements in aviation.

Starting his career as an aviation entrepreneur and ferry pilot, Mr. Coleman delivered hundreds of General Aviation aircraft across the North Atlantic and around the world from the late 1950’s until the early 1990’s. While winning many prestigious awards along the way and earning the respect of other aviation enthusiasts, Phillip M. Coleman lived his dream.

Phillip started Scot Air, one of the first mail order catalog companies that focused exclusively on pilot supplies. He founded Coleman Aircraft Corporation an aircraft sales and brokerage company.

He later became a distributor for Beech Aircraft Corporation where he earned numerous sales awards selling the popular King Air series aircraft. Phillip founded Coleman Air Transport, a regional airline based out of Rockford, Illinois. Coleman Air Transport offered scheduled service throughout the Midwest, and was also a provider of aircraft to the United States government for diplomatic and intelligence operations.

During the 1980s he was the Midwest distributor for Piper Aircraft, and served as Vice President of Sales for Mitsubishi Aircraft and Vice-President for CSX Corporation’s Aviation Division. He also owned and operated Aerodyne Inc.; a FBO located at Milwaukee’s General Mitchell International Airport.

Later he began Interlease Aviation Corporation a company specializing in leasing commercial aircraft to small US domestic carriers. This occupied Mr. Coleman for the remainder of his career in the industry.

In 1993, Mr. Coleman was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney disease. As a result of his successes in maintaining his long term health, he influenced many other patients in the dialysis community.

Mr. Coleman was proud to have the opportunity to spend his career in the field of aviation. He was a volunteer pilot for Lifeline Pilots Association, and also volunteered in the 1980’s as AOPA’s representative to the North Atlantic Operations Advisory Committee, where he worked tirelessly to keep the North Atlantic open to General Aviation. In addition to his love of aviation, Mr. Coleman loved to swim, ski, and was an avid traveler, visiting numerous countries on every continent.

Donations in memory of Mr. Philip Coleman may be made to Indiana University Foundation-Polycystic Kidney Research c/o Indiana University Foundation-PKD Research, Indiana University School of Medicine, Attn: Nona Dalton, 1110 W. Michigan Street - LO506, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

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