



**PIPER MEMORIAL AIRPORT
353 PROCTOR STREET
LOCK HAVEN PA 17745**

For Immediate Release:

**FAA Presents Long-Delayed Award to Local Aircraft Mechanic
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Lock Haven, PA, 25 August 2022 – Two years ago the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) selected Prof. H. Paul Shuch as recipient of its coveted Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, in recognition of more than fifty years of contributions to aviation safety. Dr. Shuch serves as Chief Flight Instructor and Director of Maintenance at AvSport LLC, the full-service flight school on the Piper Memorial Airport. Normally, public presentations of such honors occur with great fanfare. But, due to Coronavirus restrictions, these are anything but normal times. So, for over two years, FAA public gatherings have been curtailed, and no such presentations were permitted.

When pandemic restrictions were finally relaxed this month, the FAA Harrisburg Flight Standards District Office was able to resume public aviation safety seminars. They invited Dr. Shuch, who has been volunteering as an FAA Safety Team member for four decades, to present the inaugural safety meeting in Bloomsburg, PA. Two FAA Safety Inspectors from the Harrisburg office decided to take advantage of this opportunity to formally present Dr. Shuch with his award, fully two years after it was announced.

Shuch, a PhD aerospace engineer, has been involved in aircraft communications, navigation, and electronic systems design, maintenance, and education since joining the US Air Force in 1965. During the Vietnam War, he served as a Telecommunications Systems Controller and NavAids/Communications Management Office (NCMO) duty NCO. Upon concluding his military service in 1969, he worked as an engineer for several aerospace companies in the San Francisco Bay Area, before both founding his own Silicon Valley startup, and then pursuing a teaching career. He has owned and maintained several personal aircraft ever since.

Upon retiring as a Professor of Physics and Engineering in 2007, Shuch established AvSport LLC, a full-service flight school on the Piper Memorial Airport in Lock Haven PA. There he holds the positions of Chief Flight Instructor and Director of Maintenance. He continues to promote aviation safety by serving as a volunteer FAA Safety Team Lead Representative, conducting more than a dozen free safety seminars each year, both online and all across the US.

“The Master Mechanic designation is actually a longevity award,” quips Shuch, “bestowed upon those of us who have managed to survive half a century in this business.”

Charles Taylor, for whom the award is named, was the Wright Brothers’ mechanic. He designed and built the engine that powered the 1903 Wright Flyer. The Master Mechanic designation is bestowed upon aviation maintenance technicians who document more than fifty years of professional involvement in promoting aviation safety.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: <http://www.avsport.org/photos/maint/taylor.jpg>

CAPTION: Two years after it was announced, FAA safety inspectors Rick Harowicz (center) and Gary Martin (right) present the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award to Prof. H. Paul Shuch, in recognition of his more than fifty years of contributions to aviation safety.