



ND AVIATION HALL OF FAME 2009 INDUCTEE



ROGER L. PFEIFFER

Roger L. Pfeiffer was born and raised on a farm south of Redstone, Montana, and graduated from Plentywood High School in 1957. He served active duty in the Army Reserve before heading to Alaska to work on the D.E.W. Line in 1960 as an aircraft mechanics helper. Inspired by the field of aviation while in Alaska, he returned to attend flight school at American Flyers in Ardmore, Oklahoma, in 1961. It was there he received his commercial and instructor's licenses. In 1962, Roger was hired as a pilot at Dickinson Air Service where he did charter flights, flight instruction, power line patrol, crop spraying and ski flying in the winter blizzards of 1964 and 1966. He also worked in the shop and the office and completed his instrument rating.

Roger began his 39-year career with the State of North Dakota when he became a pilot for the North Dakota Highway Department in 1966. He transported state personnel and flew for aerial photography. He flew every section line in North Dakota two and a half times, while assisting with the production of county maps. He has flown at least five different North Dakota governors and many state officials.

Roger left in 1979 to work for the FAA at the flight service station in Minot for two years. He returned to join the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission as the Assistant Director and chief pilot, and served in that role until his retirement in 2007. While serving as Assistant Director for the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, he enjoyed working with young people through educational programs such as the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program and served on the NASAO Center Board for Aviation Research and Education, which helps state agencies promote aviation education through essay and art contests. He served as Secretary of the North Dakota Aviation Council for more than 20 years and was an active participant. He also served as Secretary for the North Dakota Flying Farmers Association for over 21 years. He worked very closely with aerial sprayers throughout his years with the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, and was part of the state task force that was instrumental in implementing new firefighting programs for aerial sprayers.

In 1991, Roger received the "Flight Safety Achievement Award" for 10,000 hours as Pilot-In-Command for safe flying for the State of North Dakota. Roger received the National Association of State Aviation Officials "Distinguished Service Award" in 1997. In 1998, he received the "North Dakota Aviation Council Special Service" award. During his nearly 40-year career with the State of North Dakota, he has been involved in almost every aspect of general aviation. He has traveled to 47 states during his career. He retired in 2007 with over 18,000 hours of total flight time.