



NEWS RELEASE

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Northern Virginia pilots recognized for participation in aviation program

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) recently recognized Rick Rahim of Great Falls, George Smith of Purcellville and Richard Largent of Stephens City with Top Eagle awards for their participation in the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program.

The EAA Young Eagles program was launched in 1992 to give interested children, ages 8-17, an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation aircraft. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

Over this past year, in the Commonwealth of Virginia alone, 120 pilots gave 1,707 young people an introduction to aviation through the program. Rahim topped the list with 193 Young Eagles flown, Smith came in second with 117 flights and Largent came in third place, flying 85 Young Eagles.

"This year's participation from Virginia's pilots was outstanding," said Randy Burdette, director of DOAV. "The time and resources they put into the program help introduce a whole new generation to the world of aviation."

The Young Eagles Program passed a milestone in June with its 1.4 millionth flight since the program's beginning. Young Eagles have been registered in more than 90 different countries and have been flown by more than 41,000 volunteer pilots.

For more information about Young Eagles, visit www.youneagles.org or call 877-806-8902.

DOAV continually strives to become the standard of excellence amongst state aviation agencies through; its cultivation of an advanced aviation system, a system that is not only safe for consumers, but one that will provide economic development opportunities throughout the Commonwealth; its promotion and education of aviation and aviation related issues, subsequently raising aviation awareness in the Commonwealth and beyond; and by providing executive flight services for the Commonwealth leadership.

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