



August 24, 2020

Mr. Jay McDaniel and the  
SSA Awards Committee

Dear Jay and Members of the Awards Committee:

As the SSA Director for Region 2, I am writing to nominate Dr. Rolland Nakashima for this year's SSA Certificate of Appreciation from Region 2. The reasons for this nomination are his extensive efforts to help the Brandywine Soaring Club be a welcoming and excellent soaring club. To bolster this nomination, I have included another letter about Rolland from Ms. Joan Burn. Joan is a past President of Brandywine Soaring Club and their current Membership Chair. I believe you will find her letter very strongly supports Rolland for this award.

Rolland is a University of Pennsylvania trained plastic surgeon who practiced in Hawaii for many years. When he retired, he moved back to southeastern Pennsylvania to be near his wife's family. He learned to soar at Dillingham field in Hawaii and has been active a number of soaring clubs ever since. He has been a member of Brandywine Soaring club for over 12 years, joining in 2008.

I first met Rolland in the summer of 2012 when he attended a Cross Country camp I helped organize and run at Caesar Creek Soaring in Ohio. Since then, I have seen him at various SSA functions and always enjoy seeing him again.

There are many reasons why Rolland is an excellent candidate for a SSA Certificate of Appreciation. I think they can be easily summarized with the statement that he is an exemplary club member and one that is really important for the success of any good soaring club. His contributions to Brandywine Soaring range from taking care of details to being very good with people. The specific reasons he is such an ideal member are outlined below. The list begins with some of his detail work and then describes some of his people skills.

- Rolland is very willing to do any work that is needed to maintain the club's equipment and facilities. Brandywine is currently refinishing their Grob 103 and Rolland is a driving force in organizing the Grob work parties. He is also always there to help their certified mechanics work on other ships that need attention. His is knowledgeable about all the club's equipment keeps on top of its condition.
- Apparently, Rolland has organized Brandywine's hanger and keeps it that way. When anyone is looking for an errant part, tool or piece of equipment, Rolland is the one to ask where to find it.

- The above makes Rolland sound like he is just someone who takes care of the details, but that is only one of his talents. Rolland is very social and organizes activities for everyone to attend after a day of flying. He is quite good at bringing everyone in the club together and making it more of a club than simply a way to go flying.
- He is an excellent ambassador for Brandywine Soaring. He greets new people, gives many of Brandywine's guest rides and is one of their best advertisements for club membership. He loves soaring and transmits his feelings to any guests who visit their operation.
- Rolland has been on the Board of the Club many times and currently heads up nominating committee and in this role works hard to get new people into the club's leadership positions
- Perhaps most importantly, Rolland is one who is good at mentoring young people. He seems to have a knack for encouraging and exciting the younger members of the Brandywine club. He is also good at educating them in the routine of club activities and gets them to help with humor and a bit of playfulness
- Finally, Rolland is a member that flies as often as he can and records a large number of flights each year. He does this even though he is not an instructor and does not own a glider.

In summary, Rolland is the kind of willing and skilled individual that every soaring club needs to have to be successful. For this reason and all of the others outlined above, I believe that he is an excellent candidate for a SSA Certificate of Appreciation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With Best Wishes

James C. Garrison

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. Garrison". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

James C. Garrison  
SSA Director,  
Regions 2 & 4