



**NOMINATION FOR THE  
MONTGOLFIER DIPLOMA  
FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPORT OF BALLOONING  
JIM BIRK**

The basis for this nomination is the many years of important contributions that Jim Birk has made to the sport of ballooning, especially in regards to competition.

Jim started his career in ballooning in 1970 and soon got involved in event organizing and directing competitive events. Jim has served our sport for over 40 years and he is truly a master and sage of competition ballooning.

Jim has been the U.S. National Championship Director eight times, North American Championship Director three times, and the World Championship Director in 1995. Jim has been the championship director at over 100 major balloon events in the United States. He had an incredible knack for developing challenging tasks and keeping our pilots at the top of the sport of competition ballooning. There is no question that his dedication to our sport has helped in keeping U.S. competition pilots' domination in World and other major events around the world.

**Pilot**

- World Championship Invitations – 1975, 1977, 1987, 1989, 1993
- World Championship 6th place finish – 1991
- Member of U.S. World Team – 1982, 1983, 1985, 1991
- 1991 Top Ranked U.S. pilot
- P.I.C. since 1970, over 4000 hours

**Director and Staff Member**

- Director of the Great Texas Balloon Race 1993 – present
- Director of the Michigan Challenge 1994 – present
- Championship Director BFA Nationals – 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1989, 2012
- Assistant Championship Director BFA Nationals – 1990, 1992
- Championship Director for North American Championships – 1990, 1992, 1995
- Championship Director for 1995 World Championship
- Director Battle Creek International Hot Air Balloon Event – 1992, 1993, 1994

- Championship Director Battle Creek Michigan Field of Flight – 1995 – present
- Director North American Balloon Association National Championships – 1999 – 2007
- Championship Director U.S. Team Championships – 1995 – 1998
- Director of North American Balloon Association National Championships 1999, 2000

#### **Awards and Service**

- Past Chairman of the Board, BFA American Events Committee
- Past Chairman of the Board, Competition Division, BFA
- Past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the North American Ballooning Association
- Recipient of 8 President's Awards
- Recipient of 8 Director's Awards
- Recipient of the Shields-Trauger Award, 1986
- Recipient of the Albert Desmond Award, 1991

Because of all of Jim Birk's above mentioned contributions and accomplishments to the sport of ballooning, NAA can think of no one more deserving of the Montgolfier Diploma than Jim Birk.