

NORTH DAKOTA AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Warren Walkinshaw

Inducted: 1999



Warren Walkinshaw began his aviation career at age 16, by saving enough nickels and dimes to take flying lessons. Although not initially excited about his son's passion for flying, his father eventually traded a team of horses for an airplane.

In 1946 he became one of the first commercial operators in North Dakota and pioneered aerial chemical application in the Red River Valley. His first spray plane was a modified Stearman and with as many as thirteen working Stearmans at one time, he is known throughout the country for his expertise in modifying them.

During the fifty plus years of his career he accumulated over 25,000 hours of flight time, most of it in round engines and close to the ground. In 1980, at age sixty, he got his helicopter rating and experimented with helicopter spraying.

He was an A&P mechanic and inspector. Many North Dakota spray pilots were trained by Warren over the years and have gone on to establish their own operations. He has also passed on his love of flying to his family with many of them earning their wings and pursuing aviation careers.

Warren was one of the original founders of the North Dakota Agricultural Aviation Association in 1948. He has promoted crop spraying as a vital service to agriculture requiring conscientious, safety oriented, and disciplined flying in carefully equipped airplanes. He has worked with the NDSU Agriculture Extension Service and with leading chemical manufacturers in numerous research programs, which have advanced the industry.

Warren was an effective advocate for general and agricultural aviation both on the state and national level. His experience in training over two hundred spray pilots and concern for safety was instrumental in establishing North Dakota's innovative internship program for crop sprayers.

Warren was a respected leader in the agricultural aviation industry throughout his long career. In 1995, Warren was inducted into the National Aviation Agricultural Hall of Fame. The North Dakota and Minnesota Ag Aviation Associations have honored him, he was twice on the cover of "Ag Pilot" magazine and was featured in numerous regional and national trade and chemical company publications.