

**BALLOON FEDERATION OF AMERICA
HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION FOR INDUCTION IN 2018**



UNITED STATES BALLOONING HALL OF FAME
A Partnership of the Balloon Federation of America and the National Balloon Museum

Candidate Information Form

Date Submitted: 2016

CANDIDATE NAME: Alan Blount

Deceased

Alternate Contact: Charlene Blount

Address: 10 N Old Creek Rd **City:** Palos Park **State:** IL **ZIP:** 60464

Telephone: (708) 275-6755

E-mail: charblount@gmail.com

Briefly describe the basis for the submission:

Alan Blount received his lighter than air pilot rating in 1974 and had over 1800 hours as pilot in command. He trained 9 student pilots who received their licenses. He became a BFA member in 1977 and obtained a Life Membership in 1983. He obtained Level 7 in the BFA Pilot Achievement Awards Program. Alan served as the first chairman of the Competition Division created by the BFA in 1987 and served on the division board until 1990. He participated in and placed high in numerous hot air balloon competitions throughout the United States and the World including the US Hot Air Balloon Championships from 1977 to 1995 where he finished in the top 20 a total of 12 times. He was on the US team for three World Hot Air Balloon Championships, winning the event in 1993 and finishing 5th in 1995. Alan was picked to serve as a Jury member at three World Championship events. He served in the command center for Steve Fawcett's around the world attempt in 1967 and was mission control director for the 1968 and 1969 attempts.

Provide references: Identify two individuals that can speak to the quality and significance of the achievement, and to the character of the candidate

Reference Name: Ken Walter **Telephone or E-mail:** winddancerballoons@gmail.com

Reference Name: Gary Britton **Telephone or E-mail:** gary.britton@uwc.edu

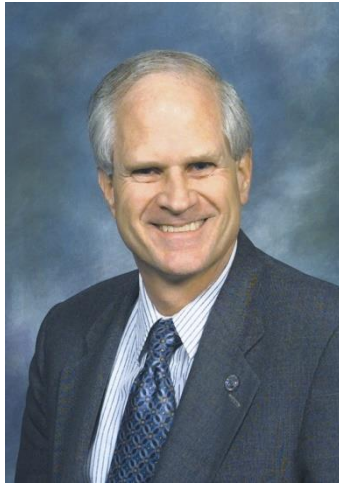
PERSON MAKING THE SUBMISSION:

Name: Debbie Spaeth

Address: PO Box 674 **City:** West Bend **State:** WI **ZIP:** 53095

Telephone: (262) 338-2300 **E-mail:** dasdeb@sbcglobal.net

CANDIDATE HISTORY:



Alan Blount (1946-2012)

Total hours PIC in Hot Air Balloons: over 1,800
Total number of students fully licensed: 9
BFA Membership: continuous since 1977, LIFE MEMBER since 1983
BFA Pilot Achievement Award Program: Level 7
Dealer for The Balloon Works: 1977 – 2002
Distributor/Dealer for Ultra Magic: 2002 - 2011

1974 – Licensed: October 30
Rating: Commercial

1977 – (August 24th) Springfield, IL - Pilots were assigned a celebrity and a sponsor to take on a balloon flight. Alan's passenger was 7 foot 2 inch center of the Chicago Bulls. (Other celebrities: Ed McMahon, Billy Carter, Bruce Jenner, Soccer star Kyle Rote, Jr., Cardinals' Lou Brock). Each balloon was sponsored. A total of \$50,000 raised to fight Muscular Dystrophy.

1978 – Great American Balloon Rally in Wisconsin Dells, WI
Aurorafest, Aurora, IL (4th place)
U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship, Indianola, IA (1st Nationals)

1979 – Wisconsin Dells Balloon Race, WI (4th place)
North Judson, IN (1st place)
Chicago Tribune Charities Star Fest (1st place)
Balloonmeister for the 1st Annual Hot Air Balloon Rally, Frankfort, IL
U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship
Wings Over Keokuk, IA (2nd place)

1980 – Wisconsin Dells Balloon Race, WI
U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship, Indianola, IA (2nd place)
Wings over Keokuk, IA (3rd Place)

- 1981 – Sixth Annual Hot Air Balloon Safety Seminar (Speaker/Competitive Flying)
 Wisconsin Dells Balloon Race, WI (4th Place)
 Fifth World Hot Air Balloon Championships in Battle Creek, MI (5th place)
 AuroraFest, Aurora, IL (1st place)
 The Great Green Bay, Wisconsin (4th place)
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship, IA (15th place)
 Alpine Valley Octoberfest, WI (2nd place)
- 1982 – Festival Aerostatico de la Ciudad de MEXICO, Mexico City, Mexico
 Participant. Invitation only and sponsored by the Government.
 Sixth Annual Midwest Balloon Safety Seminar, Rockford, IL. Speaker on
 The Pleasure and Benefits of Competition Flying
 Rocvale Children's Home Balloon Rally (1st place)
 WMRO, 1280 Radio Balloon Rally (3rd Place)
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship (12th place)
 Received special Certificate of Recognition from Illinois Division of Aeronautics, Robert Donahue,
 Director
- 1983 – North American Hot Air Balloon Challenge Cup, Battle Creek, MI
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship (9th place)
- 1984 – Calgary Stampede Race, Canada (1st place– First American to win this race)
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship (9th place, again)
- 1985 – Lake Geneva Race, IL (1st place)
 Molson Canadian High Flying Weekend (1st place)
 Seventh World Hot Air Balloon Championship, Battle Creek, MI
 Fall Festival of Flight, Morris, IL BALLOONMEISTER
- 1986 – 11th Midwest Balloon Safety Seminar, IL. Tom Sheppard and Alan Blount, speakers. Balloon
 Accident Analysis
 Molson Canadian North American Hot Air Balloon Championship (9th place)
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship (19th out of 105)
 Rocvale Children's Home Balloon Rally (1st place)
 Fall Festival of Flight, Morris, IL (5th place). Balloonmeister for the event
 The Blount Window – The Balloonworks announced several new products. The Blount Window
 “Named in honor of our friend and good pilot Alan Blount, this device gives you upward
 vision through that 55 foot umbrella which is over your head. Ends forever the feverish
 hope that ‘somebody up there likes me!’” Another comment from Ballooning:
 The company announced the availability of the “Blount Window”, a semi- transparent
 port in the valve and/or upper panels of the envelope which allows a pilot to spot other
 balloons directly above.
- 1987 – Great Wisconsin Balloon Rally, WI.
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship
 McGregor Balloon Rally, Iowa (1st place)
 Rocvale Children's Home Balloon Rally (4th place)

- 1988 – XV WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES/Kodak Balloon Festival Calgary, Canada. (4th out 127 pilots)
 Kodak Great American Balloon Fest --3 city tour/10 days: Lisle, IL, Kansas City, and Saint Louis, MO. (3rd place)
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship (16th place)
 Rocvale Children's Home Balloon Rally (1st place)
 Served as Crew Chief in the Operations Center for John Petrehn's circumnavigation attempt in 1998 from South America
- 1989 – Midwest Balloon Safety Seminar, IL. Alan Blount, Speaker. Crewing and Preparation for Major Flight
 Oldsmobile Balloon Classic Illinois, Danville, IL (5th place)
 Battle Creek International Balloon Championship (2nd place)
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (2nd place)
 McGregor Balloon Rally, IA (1st place)
 Morris Fall Festival of Flight (1st place). Also Balloonmeister for the event
 9th Hot Air Balloon World Championship, Saga, Japan. Crew chief for Harold Graves, WI
- 1990 – Battle Creek International Balloon Championship (1st place)
 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (8th place)
 Rocvale Children's Home Balloon Rally (5th place)
 North American Championship, San Antonio, TX
 Stouffer Emeraldia Resort Balloon and Polo Festival, Palm Springs, CA
- 1991 – Oldsmobile Balloon Classic Illinois (9th place)
 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship (4th place)
 Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu Hot Air Balloon World Championship, Quebec, Canada (8th place)
 Rocvale Children's Home Balloon Rally, Rockford, IL (1st place)
- 1992 – Battle Creek International Balloon Championship (8th place) and Great Lakes Regional (3rd place)
 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship, Middletown, OH (9th place)
- 1993 – 18th Annual Great Wisconsin Dells Balloon Rally (2nd place)
 Oldsmobile Balloon Classic Illinois, Danville, IL (5th place)
 Battle Creek International Balloon Championship, MI (3rd place)
 11th Hot Air Balloon World Championship, Luxembourg. (1st Place)
- 1994 – Heinen's Blossom Time Festival, Chagrin Falls, OH (7th place)
 Battle Creek International Balloon Championship, MI (3rd place)
 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship, Middletown, OH (5th place)
 Lincoln Art and Balloon Festival, Lincoln, IL (2nd place)
 Rocvale Children's Home Balloon Rally (1st place)
 Received FAI (Federation Aeronautique International) Award for the Year 1993.
 "BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE OF A HOT AIR BALLOONIST".
- 1995 – 12th World Hot Air Balloon Championship, Battle Creek, MI (5th place)
 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship, MO

- 1996 – Heinen's Blossom Time Balloon Rally, Chagrin Fall, OH (1st place)
World Balloon Invitation of Battle Creek, MI (3rd place)
- 1997 & 1998 – Mission Control DIRECTOR for Steve Fossett's circumnavigation attempts
- 1998 – Team U.S. Nationals, Battle Creek, MI (Team members Alan Blount (Capt.), Gary Britton and Mike Murphy placed 2nd)
December – Served as tracking team for Richard Branson, Per Lindstrand and Steve Fossett attempt to circumnavigation.
- 2001 – Team U.S. Nationals, Battle Creek, MI (Team members Alan Blount (Capt), Harold Graves and Peter Fay
World Air Games in Spain – member of Jury
- 2003 – Budapest CIA meeting. Intermediate Level Juror on CIA Jury List
- 2004 – Hungary CIA meeting. CSC Committee Chairman
- 2005 – Lausanne, Switzerland – Chairman of Competitors Sub-Committee (CSC)
- 2007 – Luxembourg FAI Ballooning Commission meeting
Brussels, Belgium, Gas Balloon World Championship, Jury Member
First Gas Balloon Flight with Cheryl White and Mark Sullivan (Germany to Austria)
- 2008 – World Honda Tochigi Hot Air Balloon Championship – Jury Chairman
Salzburg, Austria, CIA Meeting, CSC Chairman
- 2009 – European Championships, France – Jury member
- 2012 – World Championship in Battle Creek, MI, Organizers dedicated the 20th FAI World Championship to Alan. “You should know that this sentiment has 100 percent support of the World's Committee” said Andrew Baird.



BLOUNT, Alan USA (1946- (HB)
See APPENDIX-BD/BK/BN/BO. Sport Balloonist.
b: 30 Sept.1946, Chicago, IL.

e: BA-Degree from Northern Illinois University.

s: U.S. Coast Guard, 4-years.

p: Real Estate.

f: First B-Flight Sept. 1974, Fox River Gr. IL w/Jerry Kinkade; FAA B-License 30 Oct. 1974. More than 284 hours by 1983.

l: Winner of the 1993 World HB Champion-ships in Luxembourg; Participant in many National & 6 World Championship events.

m: BFA, Board of Dir. 1980-83, Pres. 1981-83. 1987 (April): elected board member (Pilot Board Member, Great Lakes Region) of newly formed BFA Competition Division. April 1987 to November 1989: President BFA Competition Division.

h: Montgolfier Diploma. 1990. Received the Sheilds Trauger Award for service to Ballooning. (Highest national ballooning award.) 1994 - Received the National Certificate of Honor Award from the National Aeronautics Association (NAA) at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. (Highest NAA award for balloonists). March 1988: Served as Crew Chief for "Project Share", John Petrehn's world circumnavigation attempt from Mendoza, Argentina. January 1996: Served as member of Steve Fossett's "Solo Spirit" Loyola Chicago tracking team for world circumnavigation attempt from St. Louis. January 1997: Served as of Steve Fossett's Director of Mission Control in St. Louis for "Solo Spirit" world circumnavigation attempt from St. Louis. August 1998. Served as of Steve Fossett's Director of Mission Control in St. Louis for "Solo Spirit" world circumnavigation attempt from Mendoza, Argentina. October 1998 through December 1998: Served in London, England Ops Centre for ICO Global circumnavigation attempt from Morocco. Pilots: Steve Fossett, Richard Branson, Per Lindstrand. 1986 and 1987: U.S. National Championships Jury member. Jury president for the 1997 Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon race, Warsteiner, Germany. Jury member for the 2001 World Air Games Hot Air Balloon Championships, Seville, Spain. Late 2004 to present: Chairman of the CIA Competitors Sub Committee, div of the FAI. 2006: Member of the CIA EDS Subcommittee (Event Development Services, formerly EPAS). 2005 to present: Member of the STATUTES, BY-LAWS & SC Working Group, (Division of the CIA Rules Subcommittee)***Epic flight 23 Jul. 1985 from Kellogg Airport (Battle Creek, MI) in "Sarah's Delight." Competing in World Hot-Air B-Championships, his envelope was torn by the basket of an Italian competitor. Al survived a 1000' fall that broke his shoulder; FAA/NTSB initially ruled that the accident was Al's fault, but later reversed itself, blaming "key punch error" and ruling that Contegiacomo was at fault on all counts.

a: 10 N.Old Creek Rd; Palos Park, IL 60464; 312/448-6755.

r: E-mail, 19 Dec. 2006; Chicago Tribune 24 Jul. 1985(S2)p1:2; BM-1985p25; Data-Sheet Nov.82; BL-Aug.87p19.