

**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: March 11, 2017

CANDIDATE NAME: Debbie Spaeth

Address: 3016 E Progress DR #STE 2 **City:** West Bend **State:** WI **ZIP:** 53095

Telephone: (262) 338-2300

E-mail: dasdeb@sbcglobal.net

Briefly describe the basis for the submission: Debbie has spent a lifetime in ballooning, starting in the early 1970s when she assisted Hall of Fame member Tom Sheppard in many of his activities in United States and World hot air balloon competition. She is a commercially rated hot air balloon pilot and was a member of the Balloon Federation of America Hot Air Events Committee (1977 to 1986). She authored the BFA Observer Handbook and Co-Author of the Gas Observer Handbook for 1990 World Gas Championship, was Chair - BFA Operations Committee (1983-1986) including Pilot Achievement Awards Program, Instructor Rating Program & Records Attempts Program, She served as Secretary General of International Ballooning Commission (1988-1994) and continues to serve the BFA as a member of the Awards Hall of Fame Committee.

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: David Rapp (see attached letter) **Telephone or E-mail:** drapp40@gmail.com

Reference Name: Dewey Reinhard (see attached letter)

Telephone: (719) 596-5518

E-mail: deweyfly30@gmail.com

PERSON MAKING THE SUBMISSION:

Name: Orvin Olivier

Address: 3208 E 31st Street
Telephone: (605) 366-2343

City: Sioux Falls

State: SD

ZIP: 57103

E-mail: OOLIVIER@amfam.com

CANDIDATE HISTORY:



Debbra A. Spaeth

Notable – Accomplishments/Contributions, Montgolfier Award, Shields Trauger Award

dasdeb@sbcglobal.net

FAA Pilot Certificate – Hot Air Balloon – Commercial Rating
Life Member Balloon Federation of America

Ballooning Committees and Activities include:

- Organizer of Major Balloon Events & Competitions, Balloon Safety Seminars
- Secretary General of International Ballooning Commission (CIA) (1988-1994)
- Director, Wisconsin Balloon Group, (1993-1996)
- Organizer/Speaker at Balloon Competitions Officials Seminar, Milwaukee WI (1990 & 1991)
- Member BFA Hot Air Events Committee (1977-1986).
- Authored BFA Observer Handbook (1978)
- Co-Authored Gas Observer Handbook for 1990 World Gas Championship
- Founding Member of BFA Competition Division
- Chair - BFA Operations Committee (1983-1986) including Pilot Achievement Awards Program, Instructor Rating Program & Records Attempts Program.
- Speaker at Safety Seminars on balloon competition related topics

Balloon Pilot Entrant at events including:

- Gathering of Eagles, Crystal Lake, Illinois
- Aurorafest, Aurora, Illinois
- 1987 Saga (Japan) International Balloon Fiesta
- 2001 St. Niklaas (Belgium) International Balloon Fiesta
- 2003-2008 Hartford (WI) Balloon Rally

Official at Balloon Competitions including:

- Event Director – Rockford, Monroe and Lake Geneva
- Deputy Event Director – World Hot Air Balloon Championships: Battle Creek, MI (1981 & 1985), Saga, Japan (1989 & 1997), Tochigi, Japan (2006)

- Deputy Event Director – Tochigi (Japan) International Balloon Championship (2007-2010)
- Asst. Event Director – US Hot Air Balloon National Championship (1979)
- Asst. Event Director – 1988 Kodak Olympic Balloon Festival in Canada
- Organizer & Operations Director – 1988 Kodak Great American Balloon Fest – 100th Anniversary of the Snapshot - Held over two week period in 3 Cities- Chicago-Kansas City-St. Louis
- Operations Director – World Hot Air Balloon HONDA Grand Prix – Round 1 (1998-2006)
- Deputy Event Director – World Hot Air Balloon HONDA Grand Prix – Finals in Japan (1998-2006)
- Chief Scorer, Debriefing – North American HAB Championships and World Gas & Rozier Championships
- Asst. to Competition Director – 1991 European Airship Championship, Luxembourg
- Jury Member – World and International Balloon Events including Australia, Japan, Canada, Austria, Luxembourg

Awards & Honors:

- Japan Balloon Federation Medal of Appreciation (1993)
- FAI Montgolfier Diploma for Contributions to the Sport of Ballooning (1986)
- BFA Shields-Trauger Memorial Awards for Exemplary Service to the BFA (1984)
- Honorary Guest of Malcolm Forbes @ Balleroy (France) International Invitational Balloon Meet (1986)
- BFA Presidents Award – 1981,1982,1985,1986,1987



SPAETH, Debra A. (F) USA (1956- (HB)

See APPENDIX-BF/BG. Sport balloonist.

b: 16 Mar.1956, Hartford, WI.

e: Univ.of Milwaukee, BBA-1976; Marquette Univ., MBA-1988.

p: Manufacturers Rep. (TelCom. Test Equipment).

f: First B-Flight March 1974. First B-Solo Jul.1978; FAA B-License #397508000 issued Jul.1978; More than 100 B-Hours by 1988.

l: 1975, Organized first B-Race under new BFA sanction rules; 1978, Asst.Chief Observer for U.S.National HB-Championships; 1979, Asst.B-Meister for U.S.National HB-Championships; 1981, Asst.Director for World HB-Championships; 1983,

Asst. Director for North American HB-Championships; 1984, Steward for North American HB-Championships; 1984, Chief Scorer for the Canadian HB-Championships; 1986-87, Chief Scorer for the Canadian HB-Championships; 1987, Debriefing for the World HB-Championships.

m: BFA since 1975; Scoring Mgr. of BFA Events Committee, 1977-85; FAI-CIA Sec. General 1988-95.

h: BFA Presidents Award, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986; Shields-Trauger Award, 1984; Montgolfier Diploma, 1987.

r: Bio-data form-1988.

Following is a letter of recommendation from David Rapp, former President of the Balloon Federation of America:

March 9, 2017

Mr. Orvin Olivier
Hall of Fame Committee

Dear Orv,

This letter is in support of the nomination of Debbie Spaeth to the Hall of Fame. Her commitment to the sport of ballooning has been long and active. I first met her at the Dells, Wisconsin balloon competition on the staff of Tom Sheppard in the early 80s.

Since then, I have seen her work tirelessly for the sport in the scoring area and then as Secretary of the CIA for many years. I will leave the detail of her achievements to others. They are numerous. Her benefit to the sport qualifies her for this committee's nomination to the Hall of Fame.

Please consider Debbie Spaeth for membership in this honorable society of notable members of our sport of ballooning.

Sincerely,

David L. Rapp

David L. Rapp, Past President of the
Balloon Federation of America

Following is a letter of recommendation from Dewey Reinhard, Hall of Fame member:

April 20, 2017

The Balloon Federation of America Hall of Fame Selection Committee
3208 E. 31st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Dear Selection Committee Members,

I have been informed of the nomination of Debbie Spaeth for induction into the BFA Ballooning Hall of Fame, hence this letter. I worked directly with Debbie in the past: she was Secretary General of The International Ballooning Commission and I was serving as Gas Ballooning Advisor on the Rules Committee. Debbie's workload with the CIA was tremendous and she carried it off with professionalism, dignity, and as a fine representative of our country. As a long time personal friend of Debbie, I am very familiar with the work she has done over the years for ballooning in general and the BFA in particular. I enthusiastically and wholeheartedly encourage bestowing the honor of induction into The BFA Ballooning Hall of Fame to Debbie.

Respectfully submitted,



Dewey Reinhard
4408 Greenstone Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80915-1010

deweyfly30@gmail.com