



Glen L. Moyer

**Notable - Accomplishments/Contributions,
Shields Trauger Award**

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Education is critical to aviation – to its safety and its enjoyment, by pilots, crew and spectators. This is especially true in the aerosport

of ballooning. Here in the U.S., no one has done more in that arena for the sport of ballooning than Glen L. Moyer. I am proud to place his nomination before the selection committee for the Wesley L. McDonald Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Award.

Glen Moyer is a wordsmith by trade. Before discovering ballooning he spent almost two decades in the electronic media as an award winning journalist in his home state of Texas. He was the first person to be elected by his peers to two consecutive terms as Chairman of the Texas AP Broadcasters. He received a Best Newswriting award while at WFAA-Dallas for his story on the bankruptcy of Braniff Airlines the day they stopped flying. His writing skills have earned him numerous bylines in publications across the U.S. and around the world. Mr. Moyer has been writing about balloons continuously since the debut of BALLOON LIFE magazine in 1986 though his first ballooning article, “Selling Pie in the Sky” appeared in the inflight magazine of Muse Air in 1984. Having begun contributing to BALLOON LIFE as a freelancer, Moyer eventually became the Special Reports Editor in 1988, then in 1989 (to 1993) he served as the magazine’s Editor.

In 1993 to 1998 he joined the sport’s manufacturing ranks as Marketing Director for Thunder & Colt Balloons US in Longview, Texas. But in 2001 he returned to his journalistic roots when he was hired as editor of the Balloon Federation of America’s official membership publication BALLOONING Journal. He holds that position today and as such is the longest tenured editor in the 50+ year history of the BFA. Glen has authored hundreds of articles about every aspect of the sport including pilot safety and training, personality interviews, event coverage, weather, pilot decision making. Reprints of his articles are in demand year in and year out at safety seminars across the country. But his contributions and dedication to the sport don’t end there...

Besides his journalistic contributions, Glen has almost single-handedly created the role of the professional balloon event announcer and elevated it to a premier position at any event. Having begun announcing in 1983, Glen has molded the role of ballooning announcer into one of an educator and entertainer. While he was not the first, if you mention the role of a balloon event announcer today, his is the first name well atop a very short list. His vast knowledge of the sport - gained not just as a journalist but also as a commercially rated LTA pilot with almost a quarter of a century of flying experience – allows him to bring factual information, personal anecdotes and humor to his audience. At a competition, like the just completed US National Championships, there is none better than Glen Moyer at describing the split second decision

making of a sky full of pilots all soaring headlong into a target zone. As evidence of his success in this field, 2022 will mark Glen's 33rd year as the voice of the world's largest and most prestigious ballooning event, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

In 2016, Moyer's talent as a ballooning announcer took him overseas to the UK when he was named the voice of Exclusive Ballooning's annual Sky Safari at the Longleat Safari Park in Warminster, England. In 2022, his overseas work expanded further when he was named commentator for the Isle of Wight Balloon Festival at Robin Hill Adventure Park near Newton, Isle of Wight. Air Show announcers may be quite numerous in the fixed wing world, but not so in ballooning. In that role, Glen is an icon in the sport.

I mentioned Glen's experience as a pilot. He earned a private balloon pilot certificate in 1990 and followed that with a commercial certificate a year later. His log book reflects almost 700 hours of incident/accident free flying in some 25 states and 6 foreign countries. He taught one student through to a successful rating but decided the role of flight instructor was not for him. He has qualified and competed in two US National Championships.

While the sport of ballooning has given much to him, Glen does not hesitate to give back. Service to his fellow aviators has always been a part of his character. In the 1980s he served his regional balloon clubs – the Plano (TX) Balloon Association and the North Texas Balloon Association as a director, PBA President and NTBA newsletter editor. In 1995 he was elected to an At-Large seat on the BFA's Board of Directors and while on the Board served the organization as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President. When the BFA resumed national conventions in 2008 (and again in 2011) Glen undertook the task of organizing a silent auction, in both cases raising over \$10,000 dollars for the non-profit organization. As editor of BALLOONING Glen spearheaded a redesign of the magazine and streamlined its production and publishing costs, saving the organization thousands of dollars while moving the magazine to full color for the first time in its history. Glen oversaw the design of a celebratory 40th anniversary BFA logo and then, in 2011, personally designed a commemorative 50th anniversary coin.

Glen has been a sought after speaker and organizer of safety seminars for our sport. He has developed and made presentations on several subjects including Land Owner Relations, critical to the sport of ballooning as we do not enjoy the ability to take off and land at airports. In January 2013 he coordinated and hosted the first live streaming presentation of a BFA safety seminar by the Aero-News Network with more than 350 pilots viewing nationally online. This is now an annual feature of the BFA.

In 2006 Glen was honored by the BFA for his then more than two decades of service to the sport of ballooning with the organization's highest award, the Shields-Trauger Memorial Award. In 2008 his vast contributions to the sport were again honored, this time by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale with the prestigious Air Sports Medal. Only 25 other Americans had been so honored at that time.

From March, 2012 to March 2014, Glen expanded his role in the aviation world by joining the ranks of the Aero-News Network where he was the writer/host/producer of their daily Aero Briefings podcast (www.aero-news.net) as well as a contributing writer for the network's twice weekly video news reports, Airborne.

Glen took and passed his FAA fixed wing written exam as a high school senior in 1971 as part of one of the first accredited aviation ground school courses in Texas. Unfortunately flight training was beyond his financial ability at the time though he did complete an instructed cross country flight. As a traffic reporter for WFAA radio in Dallas in the 1980's Glen achieved 23 hours of dual instruction in helicopters and was on his way to that rating when the station changed formats and released the entire staff.

Glen has always wanted to fly, having been inspired by an Uncle who was a plane chief on a P-39 Airacobra in WWII and his father's collection of WWII era boys flying stories, the Dave Dawson War Adventure Series by R Sidney Bowen (a complete collection resides on his bookshelf today!). Those of us in ballooning are the fortunate ones, for it was our form of flying that won his heart.

One of the definitions of the word 'statesman' is ... a person who exhibits great wisdom and ability in the affairs of a government or in dealing with important public issues. Glen Moyer's contributions to the sport of ballooning and aviation in general are numerous and ongoing, covering more than three decades. He has been and is a daily player in the organization and operation of the Balloon Federation of America and relates to the public on numerous occasions each year at balloon festivals across the land. He is a true ambassador for the sport and the art, no, the joy of flying at all levels. His career has been distinguished by honors as a journalist and an aviator.

The following biographical information on Glen Moyer was provided by Bill Bussey:

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In his role as BFA Editor, Glen is also the BFA's Public Relations/Media Liaison and as such routinely responds to requests and assists the media with inquiries related to ballooning whether good, bad or ugly as was the recent case involving the crash in Luxor, Egypt. In that instance Glen not only drafted the official BFA statement for the media, but directly assisted outlets no less than ABC News, The Associated Press, USA Today and the BBC with their coverage of that tragic accident.

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