

2014 Florida Aviation Awards

Ananth Prasad, P.E., Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, and Aaron N. Smith, State Aviation Manager, announced the winners of the 2014 Florida Aviation Awards at the Florida Airports Council Conference in August in Jacksonville.

Aviation Professional

Ted Soliday

Ted Soliday, Executive Director of the Naples Airport Authority, served as a helicopter pilot and air traffic controller in the U.S Marine Corps from 1966 to 1972. He has flown more than 700 combat missions and was decorated nine times.

Under Soliday's direction, the airport is financially self-supporting and debt-free. He continues to find ways to support tenants and users. To improve safety, the airport lengthened the main runway in 2011. In 2012, a campaign was launched to emphasize the airport's recommended aircraft curfew, preferred flight corridors, landing procedures, and quieter departure techniques.

Recently, he and his staff secured FAA and FDOT support for water-management system improvements and the extension of Taxiway A. The project will improve runoff and stormwater collection, water filtration, impurities removal, and distribution of clean water into nearby waterways.

Distinguished Aviation Service

Peter Horton

Peter Horton serves as Director of Airports for Key West International Airport in Monroe County, and will be retiring from the aviation world in a few months. Horton has been recognized for significant achievements in aviation several times by both the FAA and FDOT, and he has a continuing passion to enhance aviation safety and promote environmental awareness.

Horton also received a Prudential Davis Productivity Award for his work to improve runway safety areas.

Peter Horton has been proactive in



Aviation Professional: Ted Soliday; Sheila Dugan (center) accepted on Ted Soliday's behalf



Distinguished Aviation Service: Peter Horton (center)



General Aviation Airport: Clearwater Airpark; Gordon Wills (center), Operations Manager for the city of Clearwater



Commercial Service Airport: Sarasota Bradenton International Airport; Rick Piccolo (center), President, CEO of the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority



General Aviation Project: Kissimmee Gateway Airport; Terry Lloyd (center), Director of Aviation



Commercial Service Project: Southwest Florida International Airport; Bob Ball (left), A.A.E., Executive Director, Lee County Port Authority

Photographs, above: The 2014 Florida Aviation Awards presentation; in most of the photographs, State Aviation Manager Aaron Smith is on the left and FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad is on the right. Photographs by Steven Schultz, Jacksonville Aviation Authority

providing airport users with a safe airfield. He led the installation of a state-of-the-art EMAS bed for Runway 9. The airport is now preparing to install a second EMAS system for Runway 27.

He has guided the airport through

a series of changes to alleviate flooding threats. He will soon oversee construction of an emergency drainage system that will quickly remove stormwater from safety areas and prevent the backflow of sea water onto the airport.