

PRESS RELEASE

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MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT RECIEVES AIRPORT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Michigan City, IN-46360- The Aviation Association of Indiana announced the selection of the fourth annual **AIRPORT OF THE YEAR AWARD** to the Michigan City Municipal Airport. The award includes a cash grant in the amount of \$1,000 to be given to an eligible 501 (c) community organizations of the Airport's choosing. The Airport Board has designated that the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 966 will receive this year's grant.

Selection of the Airport of the Year is made after an evaluation of the Airport's role in promoting aviation safety, education, economic development, and corporate citizenship. The program is a cooperative effort between the Aviation Association of Indiana (AAI), the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Indiana Department of Transportation – Office of Aviation, and aviation industry sponsors to annually recognize an outstanding airport.

In making the selection of the Michigan City Municipal Airport, the aviation organizations highlighted the role the Airport has played in expanding aviation education, the creation of the Airport Emergency Plan and training of emergency responders, community outreach and participation in community events, and extensive marketing efforts and other economic development initiatives.

Accepting the award for the Airport was Mayor Chuck Oberlie, City of Michigan City, at the Annual Aviation Association of Indiana conference in Plymouth, Indiana on October 11, 2007.

Mayor Oberlie said, "On behalf of the citizens of Michigan City, I congratulate the Michigan City Aviation Commission and their staff on their efforts that have led to this significant achievement as the Airport of the Year. We are fortunate that our airport staff place a priority on informing and involving the community in a number of different ways: explaining the Airport's role in economic development, developing a safety plan along with conducting training to test the knowledge of the safety providers, and perhaps most importantly promoting flying to the entire community, from our young 'eagles' to senior citizens."

Airport Manager Brian Payne stated, “I am honored for Michigan City to be named Airport of the Year. It is terrific to have our Airport recognized for all of the hard work and dedication that contributes to its vitality. This award should make the citizens of Michigan City, the Board of Aviation Commissioners, Airport employees, and based aircraft owners proud to have this Airport represent them. I would like to thank Mayor Oberlie and the City Council for their continued support of the Airport. With the construction of a new Terminal Building in 2008 and a runway extension soon after, the Michigan City Municipal Airport looks to have a high flying future for years to come.”



Pictured from left to right: Board Treasurer David Miller, Board Secretary Greg Poulin, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Airport Manager Brian Payne, Board President Tom Ringo