

Alaska Loses legendary Aviator

Orin Seybert, founder, owner, and operator of Peninsula Airways has taken his final flight west. Orin was a true pioneer in developing the infrastructure and modern transportation framework we enjoy in Alaska today.

In 1955, he started Pen Air in his home of Pilot Point, Alaska with a 1946 Taylorcraft. Penair grew into the largest regional air carrier in the State of Alaska and was in operation for 65 years. Penair began as a means for transporting local residents to hospitals for care unavailable in their communities. Orin was a true public servant in his service to his fellow Alaskans.

Orin is a proud recipient of the Wright brothers Master pilot award as well as an inductee of the Alaska aviation hall of fame, among many other accolades. He was a respected pilot and businessman who was lucky enough to find his true passion in aviation. He was known as the finest Grumman pilot in the world, and flew his widgeon to all parts of Alaska often times being the only airplane to fly into some of the most remote parts of Alaska. He truly was a legend.

Later in life, Orin had a personal passion for the Alaska aviation museum to succeed and took great pride in helping it to achieve growth. The aviation museum is an important piece of Alaska's unique history and Orin left a tremendous impact on it. Orin was a great historian, who shared many stories, pieces of history, and aviation lore with the museum for preservation.

Orin was first and foremost a proud husband, father, brother, and grandfather to over 66 direct family members. He often laughingly joked at family events "I am responsible for this mess". He is preceded in death by his loving wife of 40 years, Jennie; and his children Andrew, Cecilia; brother Darryl, and mother Clarice.