

REMARKS PREPARED FOR  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE  
COLLIER AWARD DINNER  
MAY 16, 1985  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you, Bob, for that very kind introduction. What a joy to be here tonight with you on this very special occasion. I'm delighted to be able to participate in the awards ceremony. President Reagan has asked me to convey his congratulations to Russ Meyer and all those associated with Cessna Aircraft and I would like to read the following message:

Dear Russ, I am delighted to learn that you are being awarded the Collier Trophy. You have my heartfelt congratulations. I'm just sorry that Nancy and I couldn't make it to the award dinner. Your overriding concern for safety and reliability could receive no finer tribute than the Robert J. Collier Trophy, the most prized of all aeronautical honors in America. You join an illustrious roster of previous winners, and you also serve as a source of inspiration to all who are concerned with maintaining our nation's lead in aerospace technology. For this, you have my personal appreciation, not to mention the thanks of the millions of Americans who depend on air transportation for personal and business travel. Once again, congratulations. Nancy and I send you our warmest good wishes on this happy occasion and for the years ahead.

Sincerely Ronald Reagan

Let me just add my congratulations to Russ and everyone associated with Cessna for this honor and for your superb safety record. This is the first time a representative of the general aviation industry has received this award.

In 1985, there were 1400 Cessna Citations flying in 43 countries, taking off or landing every 44 seconds, enough to circle the world 33 times a day, without a single fatality. That translates into 750,000 hours without a passenger fatality -- truly a remarkable record.

That record, I'm sure Russ Meyer would tell you, was no mere stroke of luck. So much emphasis is placed on safety, by the industry and the government. The entire aviation industry and the Federal Aviation Administration make air safety the top priority, and as a result of this joint commitment and new safety systems, 1985 was the safest year ever for commuters. And the Citation has led the way with its excellent safety record.

Now along with Russ and the people of Cessna, there is a man here tonight who knows a bit about the Citation himself. He's a highly qualified pilot who has 28 years of experience and over 9,000 hours of flight time under his belt. He's been involved with the Citation program almost since its inception, acquiring a Citation I in 1975 and then a Citation II in

- MORE -



1978. He took delivery of the first Citation III in 1982, which he traded in for a new Citation III last year. And he's been a spokesman for the industry and the FAA on a number of safety issues during recent years. He's even been known to get in a little time for golf. I'm referring of course, to Arnold Palmer.

Arnold Palmer is as comfortable in the cockpit as he is in a golf cart. He's is now playing in the Philadelphia Senior Open, and I'm told he flew in from Philadelphia in a Citation. How appropriate, considering why we are all here this evening! It is now my great pleasure to introduce the one and only Arnold Palmer.