District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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I will start this month by sharing an email I received earlier this year.

"My dad, Clyde Reeves' AMA number is 4139. My number is 1082680. That's a big gap. Being very proud of my father and remembering all the years he and I spent enjoying modeling, I would like to honor him by some kind of recognition from AMA.

"Remembering the days when dad would fly some loops on one side of the circle so I could run out and sit by his feet will never leave me. We still enjoy being together at the field and being with the members of the club here in West Virginia. Thank you for consideration."

—Philip E. Reeves

(L-R) Cyde Reeves Sr. and Clyde Reeves Jr. in 1949.

After receiving this request, I reviewed the various awards available to AMA members, clubs, etc., and realized that no such award existed. I asked my fellow district vice presidents for suggestions.

After some discussion, it was decided that AMA needed a specific award to honor those members with requests such as this one, so the Award of Recognition was created and approved by the AMA Executive Council at the July 2016, meeting in Muncie, Indiana.

On September 3, 2016, I attended the Clarksburg Model Aviation Club Fun-Fly—the very club that Clyde Reeves and his son are members of. At noon, with everyone gathered around, I presented the first-ever Award of Recognition to Clyde Reeves, a charter member of the Clarksburg Model Aviation Club.

District III Vice President Mark Radcliff (L), and CMAC President Bob Hardman (R) present the Award of Recognition to longtime AMA member Clyde Reeves (C).

Clyde is 84 years young and has been an AMA member since the late 1940s. He has been instrumental in promoting model aviation in the West Virginia area for many years. I also learned while talking to his wife, Velma, that Clyde was a full-scale glider pilot and holds the West Virginia record for the longest flight out and return distance of 187.3 miles set on September 11, 1993, with a Concept 70 glider.

It was really great talking to Mr. and Mrs. Reeves and their son about all of the aviation activities the family has been involved with in their lives. There is no more deserving person for this special award than Clyde Reeves.

I encourage all AMA clubs to consider giving this award to a deserving modeler you know and recognize the individual at an event in your area. Contact your district vice president or associate vice president (AVP) for further information.

Because this is the December issue, I thought I would include something seasonal that a club in Pennsylvania did to promote model aviation and the club during the holidays. District III AVP Jeff Black explains:

"The Blue & Gray Miniature Aircraft Squadron of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, entered a float in the 2015 Christmas parade in Hanover. The members met at Steve Sieders' garage to put the float together and turned Ray Black's trailer into a stealth fighter. The club won first runner up for its float and a check for a $150 for the club."

Congratulations to the club and what a great prize to put in the club treasury!

Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and as always, fly safely—fly AMA.

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