Parachute Industry Association

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The Parachute Industry Association met in Charlotte, N.C. and the Awards Committee is pleased to announce that Cliff Schmucker has been selected for the 2020 Don Beck Memorial Achievement Award. The highest PIA award is presented at the International Parachute Symposium. It is presented for parachute or skydiving achievements that have withstood the test of time.

Cliff became President of the Parachute Industry Association in 1994 and served in that position for nearly 20 years. The Award is presented for his long-term commitment to PIA and specifically his wisdom in pushing for PIA to take over the military drawing and specs when the government decided to no longer support them. Under Cliffs' leadership PIA assumed custodial responsibility for drawings, specs and standards that applied specifically to parachutes. As a result of this decision the membership expanded, gave further recognition to PIA as an organization and added a steady income stream to PIA through the sales of the copyrighted material. In addition, that decision brought the engineering and contracting arms of the various branches of the military and the commercial entities that supply the materials to the same table to correct, update and perpetuate the specs. These conversations and actions continue today which are a big part of PIA's business meetings.

Cliff passed away in 2013 but we want to congratulate Cliff's family on the recognition of his efforts. The Award will be presented at the closing banquet of the International Parachute Symposium to be held in Cincinnati in August of this year.

For further information you can contact;

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