

Walter Giffin

1936 - 2014

WALTER GIFFIN 1936-2014
AVIATOR ENGINEER EDUCATOR



Walter C. Giffin (Walt) was born in Walhonding, Ohio on April 22, 1936 to Ruth and Maurice Giffin. The family later moved to Bucyrus, Ohio where his father became the airport manager - and this was the beginning of his passion for flying! When he was 16, his father offered him and his best friend Bob Stauffer an opportunity they could not refuse - free flying lessons in exchange for rebuilding an Aeronca Champ under the tutelage of Ralph Baehr, the local A&P. One year later, Walt started flying lessons on July 11, 1953, earning his Private Pilot's license in 7 weeks on August 29, 1953. Flying remained his passion even to the day he died in an auto accident on the way to the airport. During his lifetime, he accumulated 5000 hours in various GA airplanes; building a T-18 in 1979 and an RV-4 in 1999. His aviation credentials included an A&P, Commercial, Instrumental, & Instructor ratings.

His second love (not in that order!) was his wife, Beverly, who shared his love for flying by becoming a pilot herself and taking part in the construction of their two home-buils. Both were active in EAA Chapter 443 in Columbus, OH and Chapter 808 in Pueblo, CO. Walt served as President in both chapters. He was an avid promoter of Young Eagles, flying over 80 YE's in his T-18. He and Bev were long-time volunteers at Oshkosh every year from 1972 - 2010. They were blessed with two children, Steven and Rebecca, who shared their love of aviation, looking forward to "going to Oshkosh" every year while growing up. EAA provided lifetime friends and experiences for our family like no other!

Walt's vocation was Professor of Industrial Engineering, having earned his Bachelor's, Master's and Phd at Ohio State. While teaching at Ohio State from 1964-1987, he wrote three engineering textbooks. In 1987 he took early retirement from OSU, moving to Pueblo, CO where he was hired as Chairman of the IE Dept. at the University of Southern Colorado, now Colorado State University at Pueblo. While in Pueblo, he established a Master's program in Industrial Engineering, the only one existing in Colorado at that time. He was highly respected by his co-workers as well as his students, many of whom became quite successful in their field. He passed his love of aviation onto some of his graduate students, who chose research projects related to aviation, even entering those fields upon graduation. Quoting one of his graduate students, "In Walt I found a lot of wisdom, encouragement, humor - and a lot of good common sense." His family and friends will certainly attest to that!

