

EAA HOMEBUILDERS HALL OF FAME NOMINATING PETITION

Person nominated for induction in the Homebuilders Hall of Fame:

Name: W. S. (William Samuel) "Bud" Evans

Address (if living): n/a

Telephone Number: n/a

Date of birth: March 7, 1913 **If deceased, Date of death:** July 30, 2009

Address of closest family member (if person nominated is deceased):

Peter Evans (son), P.O. Box 231762, Encinitas, California 92023

Telephone Number: (760) 933-8267

Nomination:

EAA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the iconic Evans VP-1 Volksplane at Airventure 2018, but I was shocked to learn that Bud Evans was not already a member of the EAA Homebuilders Hall of Fame.

With over 6,000 sets of plans sold for the VP-1 alone and several hundred Volksplanes built and flown all around the world, the Evans VP-1 and two-seat VP-2 have inspired tens of thousands of amateur aviation enthusiasts: pilots, builders, and dreamers. VP-1 plans were not only sold by Evans from California but were selected for distribution by sport aviation associations in the UK, Belgium, and Australia.

The simple lines and professional engineering of the Volksplane attracted many builders who thought, "Heck, even I could build that." Some homebuilders initially attracted by the Volksplane went on to tackle more ambitious projects, but the simplicity of the Volksplane is what caught their eye in the first place.

Evans was not just a designer, he personally built both the VP-1 and VP-2 prototypes with the help of fellow Convair employee C.A. Ackerman for the Volkswagen engine conversion. Evans was finalizing the design and had begun construction of a refined, cantilever-wing, single-seat VP-3 before his death.

Evans also shared his enthusiasm and design expertise with others through five *Sport Aviation* articles, the handy *Evans Lightplane Designers Handbook*, and hundreds if not thousands of letters and phone calls with homebuilders and budding designers.

For all these reasons, induction into the EAA Homebuilders Hall of Fame would be a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to EAA and to amateur-built aviation all over the world.

References/sources:

Articles by Evans:

"More About Aerolite," W. S. Evans, *Sport Aviation*, September 1966

"The Use of Noncertified Wood," W. S. Evans, *Sport Aviation*, January 1967

"Der Volksplane," W. S. Evans, *Sport Aviation*, May 1969

"Two-Place Volksplane," W. S. Evans, *Sport Aviation*, January 1972

"Have It Your Way," W. S. Evans, *Sport Aviation*, March 1992

Articles by others (sampling only):

"Successful Volksplane Forum Conducted," *Sport Aviation*, April 1971

"A Tribute to a Volksplane," Don Lockhard, *Sport Aviation*, December 1971

"I Built A Volksplane," Dr. Ted F. Mayo, *Sport Aviation*, August 1972

"A Plane for the Common Volks," Budd Davisson, *Air Progress*, May 1974
(see <http://www.airbum.com/pireps/PirepVP-II.html>)

"A Volksplane Reborn," Matthew Long, *Kitplanes*, March 2000

Books (sampling only):

The 25 Most Practical Homebuilt Aircraft (Modern Aviation Series), Peter M Bowers, TAB Books, 1978

Build and Fly Your Own Plane, Robert Lowe, Harper Collins, 1980 (A whole book about building a VP-1!)

Homebuilt Aircraft, David B. Thurston, McGraw Hill, 1982

Web sites (sampling only):

<http://www.evansair.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evans_VP-1_Volksplane

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evans_VP-2

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/volksplane/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/VP-3info/info>

Honors/awards:

None that I am aware of.

Additional information

I have no connection to the Evans family other than as a fan of the Volksplanes and I hope to build my own VP-2 someday. I wrote the attached Kitplanes article on a French VP-1 back in 2000.

Person submitting this nomination: Matthew W. Long

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