



LAURA TABER BARBOUR

AIR SAFETY AWARD

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PROMINENT AIR SAFETY AWARD CO-FOUNDER HAS DIED

Clifford Barbour Jr., the last remaining founder of The Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Award, died today, February 6, 2020. He was 92. Cliff, a real estate developer, avid sailor and lover of all things maritime, was the only child of Dr. Clifford E. Barbour and Laura Nye Taber Barbour.

Cliff was away at school in the spring of 1945 when his mother was visiting family in Pittsburgh. On April 14, 1945, Mrs. Barbour boarded Pennsylvania Central Airlines Flight 142 for her return trip to Knoxville, Tennessee. Shortly after takeoff, the plane flew into an electrical storm and communications were lost. It appeared the pilot attempted to fly below the lowering clouds to follow the Monongahela River to the airport. Instead, the plane flew off course and crashed into the rugged terrain of Cheat Mountain on the outskirts of Morgantown, West Virginia. All passengers and crew were killed.

In the years following, Dr. Clifford E. Barbour and son, Cliff, in coordination with Flight Safety Foundation's founding members, Jerry Lederer and Gloria Heath, established the Award in Laura's honor. The Award became Flight Safety Foundation's annual award recognizing original and remarkable contributions in the field of aviation safety, be it civil or military, in method, design, invention, study or other advancement.

Long respected in the field of aviation safety, the Award places particular emphasis on achievement and the manner of operation, duration and persistence of personal effort extending far beyond standard occupational responsibilities, assignments or functions. And in so doing, mechanics, engineers and others not at executive administrative or research levels and who have made distinguished contributions to air flight safety, garner most careful consideration.

Through early association with the Flight Safety Foundation and from its founding, the Award has enjoyed a rich history of Award Board members, nominees and Award recipients. Since 1956, this long distinguished Award has recognized those responsible for crowning achievements in aviation safety worldwide.

In 2013, the Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Foundation was formed from members of the Award Board, the aviation community and the Barbour family. That same year, Cliff spoke at the IASS Award presentation in Washington D.C.

As the Foundation broadens the scope of its intent, with great purpose, the Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Award will continue to spotlight those champions who pioneer breakthroughs in flight safety from around the world.

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