

Joe Tippets' son John speaks to Washington Area FAA retirees

On August 23, twenty-eight retirees gathered at Tony Lin's Chinese Restaurant in Rockville Maryland for lunch and to hear John Tippets speak about a particular incident in his Father Joe's life. Ken Cohen was the host and arranged for John to speak.

Joseph H. Tippets (Joe T.) served with the CAA-FAA from 1937 until his death in 1968. In the 1940's, he was in Anchorage and was involved with radio and airways equipment site selections and installations throughout Alaska.



Morrison-Knudsen Lockheed Electra

In the extremely cold winter of 1943, Joseph was involved in a true adventure. He was a passenger on board a Morrison-Knudsen Lockheed Electra, which crashed in the mountains near Ketchikan. His story, and that of three others who survived the next month, is an account of courage, determination, skill, faith and prayers ... and, dry matches. And in the same month, Joe's wife, Alta, in Anchorage with her two-year old son John, is experiencing her own special test of faith and courage.



Alta and Joe Tippets

John Tippets is presently the President & CEO of the American Airlines Federal Credit Union.

In recent years, it has been John's avocation to write the life histories of his parents and he has recently completed two chapters ("What to do about Alta" and "Cheating an Icy Death") about that month in 1943.



John used a power point presentation with lots of pictures to tell the story of his father's harrowing experience to us and is available to repeat the presentation to other interested groups anywhere in the country. His only price is to ask that anyone who has a special memory of a "Joe T." experience to please share it with him for his project. He has yet to write the chapters about the years 1947-on. John can be contacted at:

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Joseph Tippets was forever grateful for God's hand in his survival. His service to his country and aviation was one means of repayment for having been spared. From 1961 to 1967, Joe was FAA Western Region Director and was an Associate Administrator in Headquarters 1967-1968. In 1967, nominated by the employees of the Western Region, he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Public Service from Brigham Young University ... "In recognition of the contribution you have made to our country, the American Way of Life, and your fields of endeavor...".



Joe receiving honorary Doctorate degree

Submitted by Warren Lichtenberg