

have a much more personal and compelling interest in this subject because the life that they save may be their own.

On behalf of our association, I wish to express our appreciation for your courtesy in hearing our views on aviation safety.

ANNEX A

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association is an organization which provides services to more than 138,000 members located in every state in the Union. It is a non-profit association incorporated under the laws of New Jersey.

Purpose

It was formed in 1938 to promote, protect and represent the interest of its members in aeronautics and the pursuit of flying; to promote economy, safety, popularity and use of aircraft by members. To accomplish these purposes, we seek several specific objectives: maximum freedom of the airspace for all users consistent with safety, improved aviation safety, an adequate airport system, an adequate system of air navigation aids, production of improved aircraft, reduction of frustrations in aircraft ownership and use, facilitation of international travel by private aircraft and wider public support of general aviation requirements.

Membership

Half of the active general aviation aircraft in the United States are owned and operated by our members. Our 138,000 members comprise about 30% of all the active civil pilots in the entire country. Sixty-three percent (63%) of our members hold private certificates, 24% hold commercial certificates, 2% hold airline transport ratings, 8% hold student certificates and the balance are pilots in military service. OAPA is not a professional or trade association in the common sense of these terms. The majority of our members are non-professional pilots and therefore do not join for the usual professional or commercial reasons characteristic of unions or business trade associations. AOPA is a service organization more analogous to the American Automobile Association or the National Rifle Association.

AOPA staff

To serve our members, who fly for business, personal and recreational purposes, we have assembled a full-time staff of 127 people. Our professional staff is composed of specialists who are acknowledged experts in their respective fields. We cover virtually every field of significant interest to the owner or pilot of non-commercial aircraft. Many of these fields are also of interest to commercial operators. Our headquarters is located in Bethesda, Maryland.

Method of policy formulation

You will recognize the inherent problem in policy formulation in an organization with so large a membership. It is not unlike your own problems in representing your constituents on specific issues. Like you, we pay very close attention to the substance and volume of mail from our members, as well as our personal contacts with members throughout the country. AOPA policy is formulated, in the light of extensive member comment, by the professional staff members, who combine their knowledge, background and understanding of aviation problems. Our rapid growth in 28 years from zero to 138,000 members, is practical testimony to the success of this method and the accuracy with which our staff reflects member desires—for our support depends upon voluntary membership.

ANNEX B

VICTOR J. KAYNE

Starting his career in aviation in 1930, Mr. Kayne worked in several phases of general aviation operations, including work as an A & E mechanic. He came into air traffic control as a member of the original staff of the control tower at the old Washington-Hoover Airport in 1935, when ATC was a municipal and private-industry operation. He was the first chief of the Washington National