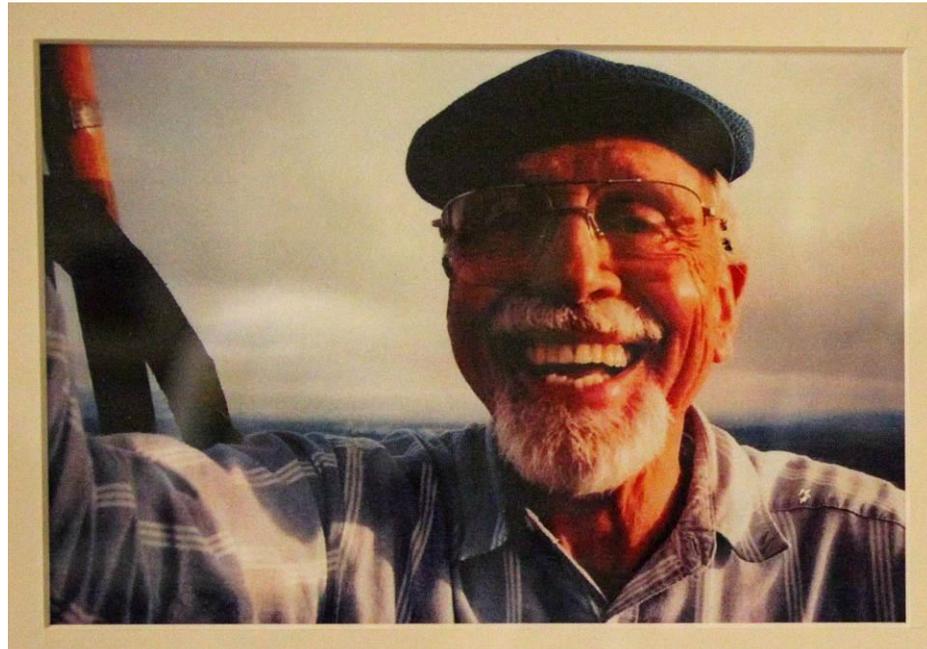




**FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE  
Ballooning Commission**

**Hall of Fame**

**KARL STEFAN  
INDUCTED 2000**



**KARL STEFAN  
USA**

**Inducted 2000  
28 July 1916, Omaha, NB**

Karl Stefan made his first gas balloon flight in 1956 and his first hot air balloon flight in 1961. He worked as a LTA engineer for the National Center for Atmospheric Research and as Research Engineer for "The Balloon Works," "The Tyler Airship Company" and "The ILC-Dover projects." He set a new World Altitude record in class AX8 with 9,506 meters (31,189 ft.). Stefan was the US delegate to the FAI International Ballooning Commission and has served on its Records Review Subcommittee. Karl Stefan was awarded the Montgolfier Diploma for 1971.

*Photo and plaque published with permission of the Anderson/Abruzzo International Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA*

USA

Born July 28<sup>th</sup> 1916 in Omaha, NB. Officer, pilot, engineer and balloon pilot and LTA engineer.

Officer in U.S. Navy from 1935. Graduated U.S. Naval Academy 1940. Pilot (airplanes and helicopters). Master degree (Aero-Engineering) University of Minnesota 1945. Research and Development Administrator U.S. Navy. Retired 1960.

LTA engineer for the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Research Engineer for “The Balloon Works”, “The Tyler Airship Company” and “The ILC-Dover projects.

Karl Stefan made his first gas balloon flight 1956 and his first hot air balloon flight 1961.

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 1971, Karl Stefan set a new World Altitude record in class AX8 with 9 506 meters (31 189 ft). His research before that flight was made available to fellow aeronauts in a report, “Performance Theory For Hot Air Balloons”, published in ballooning magazines and LTA-symposiums. He also helped other pilots set altitude records, both in gas and hot air balloons.

From 1979 Karl Stefan was the US delegate to the FAI International Ballooning Commission, CIA. He was Vice President from 1981 to 1983 and for many years also member of a number of sub-committees. From 1989 he is the chairman of the CIA Records Review Sub-committee.

For a record period of 10 years, from 1984 to 1994, Karl Stefan was the President of the CIA. During this time he was a very active, able and popular president. He initiated the present structure of the CIA with several subcommittees doing the work under his leadership between the annual plenary meetings. He also initiated the CIA Newsletter through which important information was circulated to aeronauts around the World.

Karl Stefan was awarded the Montgolfier Diploma for the year 1971.

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Compiled from various sources by  
Hans Åkerstedt  
2000-04-23

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Sources: Who’s Who of Ballooning, Robert J Rechs, 1983 pages 173, 341  
Montgolfier Diploma nomination 1972  
FAI World Record files  
CIA minutes 1972 – 2000

Additional photos and information can be found on the Balloon Federation of America’s National Balloon Museum Website: <http://www.nationalballoonmuseum.com/HallofFame>