

A Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Moment

Did you know:



The NY Wing Cadet of the Year award actually represents two generations of dedicated CAP service. The NY Wing Cadet of the Year award is officially titled the Captain James Burr Reddig Memorial Award. Captain Reddig was the commander of a B-47 bomber, with the Strategic Air Command. He was killed on 26 February 1965, when his aircraft collided with a KC-135A tanker while refueling.

Prior to his Air Force service, Captain Reddig joined CAP at age 14 rising to the position of Cadet Commander of the Rochester Cadet Squadron. He became a Senior Member and Mission Pilot. Following his death, Captain Reddig's parents established the memorial award to honor their son's service to our country and his shared passion and dedication to CAP.

Captain Reddig's father, James Clendenin Reddig, was also a long time CAP member, having joined shortly following the attack on Pearl Harbor. James C. Reddig was an aviation pioneer having studied Aeronautical Engineering at MIT. Reddig worked in aircraft design for such notable companies as Loening Aircraft and Fleetwings Co. He was instrumental in the design of the Fleetwings Sea Bird – the first all stainless-steel production aircraft. Reddig joined Eastman Kodak in 1939 where he worked on aerial reconnaissance systems. Reddig's final project prior to his retirement was the development of the camera and film processing system for the Apollo Lunar Orbiter that mapped the moon's surface in preparation for future landings.



In his lifetime, Reddig had the opportunity to meet and work with Orville Wright, Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Jimmy Doolittle and Anthony Fokker. Reddig was often found sharing his many aviation experiences with CAP cadets and senior members of the Rochester, NY and surrounding squadrons. At the time of his death in 1993, James C. Reddig was a charter CAP member with over 51 years of service.