

Crossville Memorial Airport
AIRPORT HALL OF FAME
2025

Charles “Chuck” Clapper

FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE CROSSVILLE MEMORIAL AIRPORT,
INCLUDING OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
INFLUENCE IN THE FIELD OF AVIATION.


R.J. CRAWFORD
MAYOR OF CROSSVILLE, TN




VALERIE HALE
CITY MANAGER



CROSSVILLE MEMORIAL AIRPORT HALL OF FAME NOMINATION



Established in 2015, the Crossville Airport Hall of Fame honors exceptional service to the Crossville Memorial Airport. Nominations are accepted throughout the year via email to the Crossville City Manager (address available at www.crossvilletn.gov). The Crossville Airport Advisory Committee selects inductee(s) during the September Committee meeting.

Date: 16 July 2025

Nominee's Name: Charles "Chuck" D. Clapper Phone: 931 210-3584

Address: 459 Summerwind Dr. City/State/Zip: Crossville, TN 38571

Nominator's Name Ben J. Welch, Jr. Phone: 615 319-3252

Address: 18 Clason Pt. City/State/Zip: Crossville, TN 38558

Email: benjowelch@comcast.net

Please describe accomplishments and justification for nomination.
Attach supporting documentation including methods of verification.

"Chuck" Clapper has been flying for more than 60 years and has logged in excess of 25,000 flying hours. His resume includes the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, the FAA's highest honor awarded to pilots with over fifty years of accident free flying, and the FAA Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award for fifty years of aviation maintenance experience. In addition to being a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI), Certified Flight Instrument Instructor (CFII), commercial pilot, with multi-engine, jet, helicopter and seaplane ratings, Chuck has 13 type ratings – ratings in aircraft that require special and specific training. Clapper operated a charter flight and cargo operation in the Bahamas for twenty years providing air services to several islands of The Bahamas. He subsequently moved to South Florida and purchased a Cessna Flight Center flying school. Chuck and his wife, Connie, were both active CFI's and charter pilots in that endeavor, managing 22 airplanes and two helicopters, instructing and providing charter service. When the Clappers decided to transition out of the flying school business, they had 2 Jets and four Turboprops with a full charter schedule between Florida, New York and Colorado. He also found time to pilot planes in three movies, including "Last Plane Out", "Drop Zone" and "War and Remembrance". The Clappers sold their flying business in 2007, and looking to relax and enjoy a slower lifestyle, moved to Crossville. Chuck immediately became active in the airport, providing services as both a Master Mechanic and as a Certified Flight Instructor, energizing the local "Crossville Flyers" club and participating in airport events and activities. Chuck was a key figure and charter member of the Crossville Civil Air Patrol Squadron created in 2014, participating as the Chief Pilot, Flight Instructor, Flight Check Pilot and Safety Officer. Clapper actively assisted the Crossville City Manager in the search for a new Fixed Base Operator, to bring the airport operation to a more efficient, customer friendly and competitive level. He was also a supporter of the creation of the Crossville Airport Committee in 2018 to facilitate better communication between the Airport and City Council and to provide a public orientated forum to promote the airport and aviation related events and services in the greater Upper Cumberland Area. Chuck purchased a Cessna 172 and formed and operated the first member equity flying club at Crossville Airport, providing affordable flying and instruction for up to ten pilot members. He continues to maintain an active presence at the airport and aviation related events to this day. The legacy of Charles "Chuck" Clapper spans more than 7 decades, over 25,000 flying hours in more than twenty different aircraft, while teaching hundreds of students, and seasoned pilots, to fly and/or fly better. His contributions to aviation are historic and his impact on Crossville Airport and the aviation awareness of the Upper Cumberland area will be felt for the foreseeable future. I sincerely recommend Charles "Chuck" D. Clapper for induction unto the Crossville Aviation Hall of Fame.