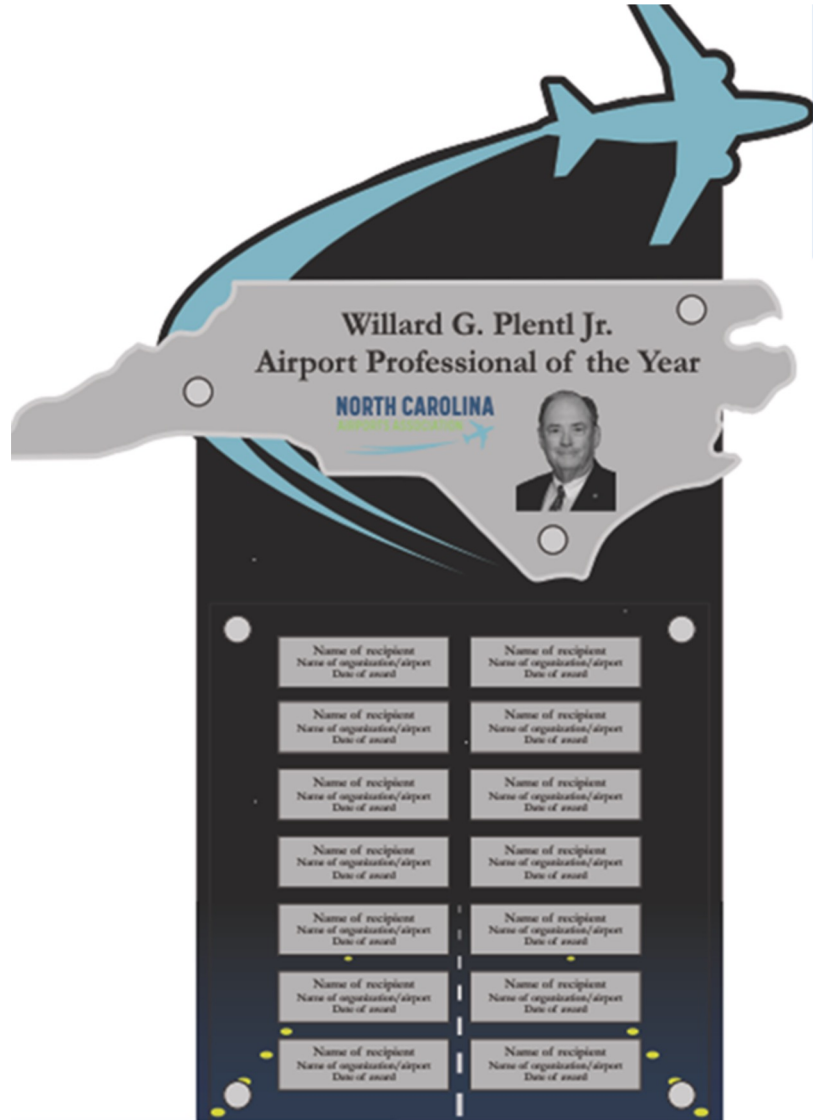


Willard G. Plentl Jr. Airport Professional of the Year



Aviation in his Blood



NCDOT Aviation



NCDOT Aviation



Mentor to the Industry



“Will was so knowledgeable and loved to share his wisdom. Furthermore, he always knew exactly what to say when to say it! When I needed advice, Will would bring it to me. If it had to do with project implementation, funding allocations or even political collaboration, Will would instinctively know when you needed the help and give it to you straight.”

Dion J. Viventi, CM, PE, CFII

Director - Rocky Mount-Wilson Regional Airport

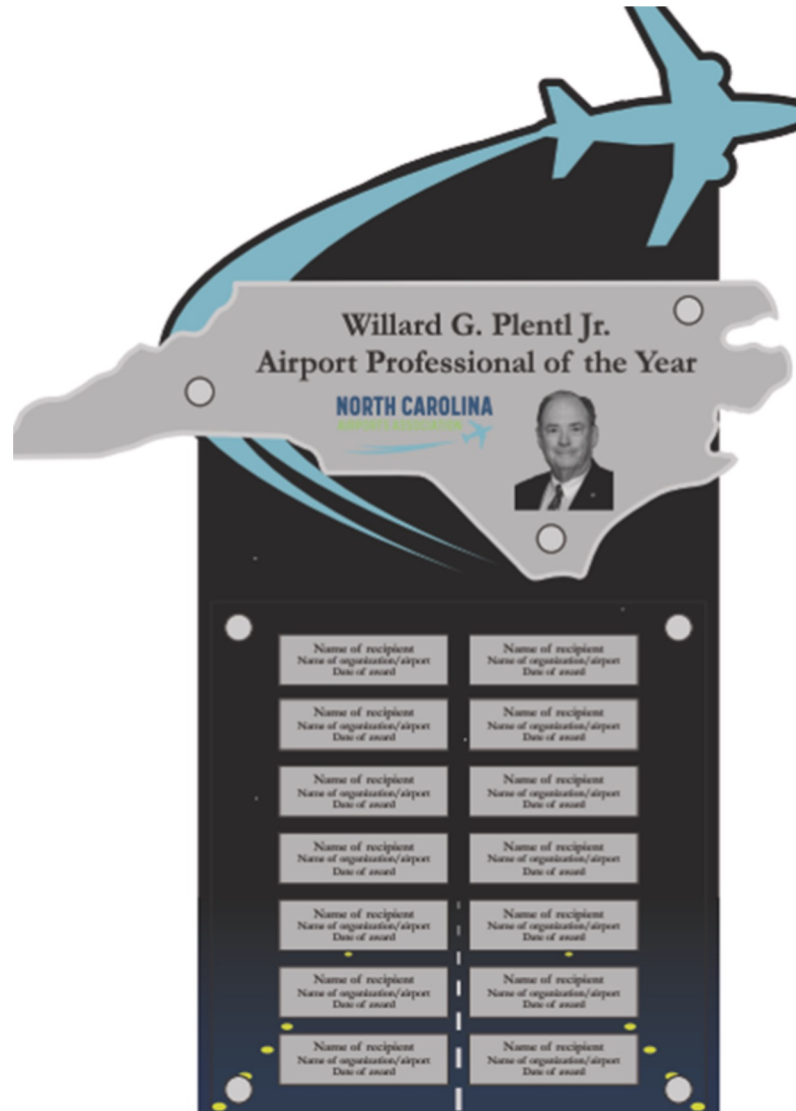
Mentor to the Industry



Ambassador of Aviation



Willard G. Plentl Jr. Airport Professional of the Year



Airport Professional of the Year

Ronald Maness



- Ron grew up on the eastern countryside of North Carolina, working hard in school, and attending UNC where he eventually found interest in the Air Force ROTC Program.
- That first ride in the Cessna 172 was perfect preparation for civilian flight school where his plane was a T-41, the Air Force version of the Cessna. After 13 days, he showed his determination by getting his private pilot's license, which led to Air Force pilot training and the Number Two spot in flight school. With his choice of flying assignments, Maness chose the F-106 to fly against the Navy Top Gun teams since the 106 simulated the famous Mig-21.
- Ron flew against the "best of the best," but eventually transitioned to the versatile F-4, spending a year in Iceland intercepting Russian bombers bound for Cuba. After returning to the United States, Ron, now a Captain, was accepted into the prestigious Air Force Thunderbirds where his place was the daunting left-wing position, the "slot." The team's maneuvers were dangerous, but Maness's mental thoughts of "***just fly the plane***" looped prior to each performance.

"Just fly the plane"

Airport Professional of the Year

Ronald Maness



- After twelve years of Air Force aeronautics service, Maness had commercial pilot rotations with Eastern Airlines and USAir, in the DC-9, MD80, 727, the F28 and the F100. With significant marketable cross-training on different planes, he was proud to find himself as part of the unveiling the Airbus 320 for US Air. Maness retired from US Air's training and standards division the FIRST time in 2004. And in October 2004, Ron Maness began the first of **FOUR** periods as the Moore County Airport Director.
- As Director of one of the Top 15 General Aviation airports in the state, he has helped develop it into an engine of economic growth (\$107 million in three years), home to eight difference aligned companies, with community engagements and events scheduled throughout the year.



“For someone who has been in the ‘flying business’ for over 60 years, this award certainly seems appropriate. Ron Maness embodies both the spirit and industry of aviation for which the Willard G. Plentl, Jr. Award is intended.”

-Mike Jones



Airport Professional of the Year Ronald Maness



Ron Maness- Top Gun

Airport Professional of the Year Ronald Maness



Ron Maness & Harry Reasoner- Thunderbirds

Airport Professional of the Year Ronald Maness



**Ron Maness &
Harry Reasoner
- Thunderbirds**

Airport Professional of the Year Ronald Maness



“Just fly the plane”



Thank you, Ron, for everything you have done for the state of North Carolina and for the aviation industry as a whole!

