



# Einar Enevoldson

## *2024 Pathfinder Award Recipient in The Flying Category*

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The Museum of Flight's Annual Pathfinder Awards honor individuals with ties to the Pacific Northwest who have made significant contributions to the development of the aerospace industry. Pathfinder Award recipients are selected by The Museum of Flight, the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and representatives of other aviation and aerospace organizations and companies throughout the Northwest.

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From the age of 15, when he set a world-record in his engineering of a glider model, to the end of his career at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Enevoldson constantly pushed the limits of possibility to make his own path. His career continued to soar, and after a short time learning about sailplanes in El Mirage,

Enevoldson joined the United States Air Force.

Enevoldson's seven time to climb records in the Lockheed F-104 earned him a Distinguished Flying Cross, demonstrating the impact his passion could make. After his time in the military ended, he piloted an assortment of experimental aircraft for NASA, including the X-24B and Grumman F-11. Proving his versatility to be limitless, Enevoldson broke the boundaries of aerospace technology with his memorable contributions, earning him two NASA Exceptional Service Medals. These awards celebrated his trailblazing role in the General Dynamics F-111 supercritical wing program and his work as a project pilot on the Grumman F-14 stall and spin resistance tests.

His pioneering spirit continued with Grob Aerospace in Germany, where he set numerous altitude records in high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft. Enevoldson explored the upper atmosphere with gliders in his leadership position for the Perlan Project, achieving a sailplane altitude record of 50,724 feet, which laid the groundwork for the stratospheric exploration in Perlan II. Enevoldson's relentlessness and technical expertise epitomize the qualities celebrated by the Pathfinders Award, and his legacy of ambition is an inspiration for others pursuing their own unique vocations.