

Roy Shwery

Nominated by Marshfield Airport Committee

Roy was deeply involved in aviation beginning in 1939, when he took his first solo flight at the age of 16.

As a member of the Armed Forces in World War II, he flew medium and heavy bombers until his discharge in 1946. Upon discharge, he moved to Marshfield and worked as a flight instructor. In 1948 Roy purchased the fixed base operation at the Marshfield airport. He provided charter flights as well as flight instruction, aircraft sales and maintenance.

In 1950 he received his Airline Transport Rating and acquired all of the pilot ratings available.

In 1953 American Airlines accepted Mr. Shwery as a pilot. He was in the process of selling the fixed base when the Roddis Plywood Company approached him with a contract to fly their personnel and equipment. This enabled him to purchase a Beechcraft 18, which also allowed Marshfield to have air ambulance, business, and recreational flight service.

In the early 1960s the city of Marshfield acquired the services of North Central Airlines. Unfortunately, service at the time was inadequate. In 1964, to address the need, Roy brought into existence one of the first commuter airlines, Midstate Airlines. Midstate offered one daily round trip from Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Milwaukee and then on to Chicago O'Hare. With an increased demand for service, additional flights were added, as well as more cities. The fleet grew to six Beechcraft 18s. The 18s were upgraded to Beechcraft 99s, and eventually Metroliners.

In 1978 Midstate Airlines was named Marshfield's Firm of the Year. Roy is acknowledged as one of the pioneers in the commuter industry. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Commuter Airline Association.

Other awards bestowed upon Roy Shwery include State of Wisconsin Department of Aviation Person of the Year, Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame Inductee, and the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, recognizing 50 years in the industry.

In 1998 the Marshfield Airport was named Roy Shwery Field.

Not only did Roy accumulate approximately 28,000 flying hours in his career, he is also responsible for enabling numerous individuals to become part of the aviation industry.

For more information on Roy Shwery, Midstate, or Marshfield aviation, search Aviation History in Marshfield, WI on the internet.

