



## Videos Now Available of the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Awards and Region X Commitment to Safety Award

On Sept. 18, 2024, the aviation community came together to honor the exceptional dedication of air traffic controllers during the 20th annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards and seventh annual Region X Commitment to Safety Award.

The Archie League Awards, named after the first air traffic controller, highlight the extraordinary efforts of NATCA members who ensure the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS). These awards celebrate the quick thinking, calm under pressure, and exceptional situational awareness that define the profession.

You can now watch videos of each Archie Medal presentation and read more about the saves [here](#).



### 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Awards & Region X Commitment to Safety Award Event Program

Read more about each region's recipient(s) in the event program:

[Read PDF](#) | [Read in Uberflip](#)

## Wayne Harper Honored with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Alaskan Region



**Photo (left to right):** NATCA Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, Wayne Harper, Clint Lancaster, and NATCA President Rich Santa

On February 1, 2024, Wayne Harper, an air traffic controller at Anchorage ATCT (ANC), showcased exceptional composure and quick decision-making during a critical situation at Anchorage International Airport. Amid record-breaking snow accumulation and challenging visibility, Harper swiftly issued a go-around command to an incoming aircraft after noticing a disoriented plane on the runway. His decisive actions prevented a potentially catastrophic runway incursion.

Alaskan Regional Vice President Clint Lancaster presented Harper with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Alaskan Region.

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Wichita ATCT Team Honored with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Central Region**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Tyler Spencer, Anthony DeHaven, William Wyatt, Cameron Haynes, Aaron Merrick and Rich Santa

On January 23, 2024, a team of air traffic controllers at Wichita ATCT (ICT) faced a critical situation when a military aircraft struggled with poor weather conditions and low fuel while attempting to land. Tyler Spencer, Cody Wilkerson, William Wyatt, Anthony DeHaven, Cameron Haynes, and Allison Healey demonstrated exceptional teamwork and quick thinking, guiding the aircraft through multiple failed landing attempts to a successful and safe landing at Wichita Airport.

Central Regional Vice President Aaron Merrick presented Spencer, Wyatt, DeHaven, and Haynes with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Central Region. *Wilkerson and Healey were not present to accept their awards in person.*

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Brian Bernhardt and Jason Wilson Honored with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Eastern Region**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Brian Bernhardt, Mike Christine, and Rich Santa

On the evening of February 18, 2024, Brian Bernhardt and Jason Wilson, controllers at Philadelphia ATCT (PHL), expertly guided a visually impaired pilot to a safe landing after he lost his glasses mid-flight. Bernhardt provided radar vectors, while Wilson coached the pilot during the critical final approach, ensuring a successful outcome.

Eastern Regional Vice President Mike Christine presented Bernhardt with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Eastern Region. *Wilson was not present to accept his award in person.*

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Columbus ATCT Team Honored with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Great Lakes Region**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Jennifer Harshbarger, Michael Phillips, Matthew Adair, Dean Von Almen, and Rich Santa

On October 16, 2023, Michael Phillips, Matthew Adair, and Jennifer Harshbarger from Columbus ATCT (CMH) displayed remarkable quick thinking and teamwork during a critical in-flight emergency. Their swift actions ensured the safe landing of a distressed aircraft, exemplifying the highest standards of aviation safety.

Great Lakes Alternate Regional Vice President Dean Von Almen presented Phillips, Adair, and Harshbarger with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Great Lakes Region.

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Sarah O'Brien and Hanan Wiseman Honored with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the New England Region**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Hanan Wiseman, Sarah O'Brien, Kevin Curtiss, and Rich Santa

On a clear September evening in 2023, Sarah O'Brien and Hanan Wiseman from Boston TRACON (A90) displayed exceptional teamwork and quick thinking when a small aircraft lost all electrical power. Their coordinated efforts and decisive actions ensured the safe landing of the distressed aircraft at Bedford Airport.

New England Regional Vice President Kevin Curtiss presented O'Brien and Wiseman with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the New England Region.

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Jordan Smith Honored with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Northwest Mountain Region**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Jordan Smith, Stephanie Winder, and Rich Santa

On April 7, 2024, Jordan Smith, a controller at Denver TRACON (D01), showcased remarkable professionalism and quick thinking during a critical emergency involving a structurally damaged Southwest Airlines flight. His swift coordination and decisive actions ensured the safe landing of the aircraft.

Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President Stephanie Winder presented Smith with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Northwest Mountain Region.

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Nashville ATCT Team Honored with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Southern Region**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Steven Brader, William Mitchell, Jaime Romaker, Dan McCabe, and Rich Santa

On March 1, 2024, the quick thinking and teamwork of Jaime Romaker, William Mitchell, and Steven Brader from Nashville ATCT (BNA) ensured the safe landing of N715MW, a Beech Bonanza 36 facing deteriorating weather and low fuel. Their expert coordination guided the pilot through challenging conditions to a safe landing at John C. Tune Airport.

Southern Regional Vice President Dan McCabe presented Romaker, Mitchell, and Brader with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Southern Region.

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Teamwork Triumphs in Southwest Region with 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award**





**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Jeremy Willard, Amanda Alcantara, Bryen Waltjen, Daniel Keefe, James “Chippy” Chipman, and Rich Santa

On an ordinary day, the extraordinary teamwork of James “Chippy” Chipman, Amanda Alcantara, Daniel Keefe, Bryen Waltjen, and Jeremy Willard ensured the safe landing of an aircraft with critical engine failure. Their coordinated efforts under pressure exemplify the highest standards of air traffic safety.

Southwest Regional Vice President John Bratcher proudly presented Alcantara, Chipman, Keefe, Waltjen, and Willard with the 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Southwest Region.

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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**Western Pacific Region 2024 Archie League Medal of Safety Award: Quick-Thinking Controller Devin Stankevitz Guides Safe Emergency Landing**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Devin Stankevitz, Joel Ortiz, and Rich Santa

On a typical Saturday morning at Chino Airport, Devin Stankevitz demonstrated exceptional skill and composure as he managed an emergency landing situation. Stankevitz coordinated the safe landing of an aircraft experiencing fuel issues. His quick thinking, combined with effective teamwork, ensured the aircraft landed safely despite the challenges.

NATCA Western Pacific Regional Vice President Joel Ortiz presented Stankevitz with the Western Pacific Region Archie League Medal of Safety Award for his exemplary performance under pressure.

Read more about the save and see the award presentation video [here](#).

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## **Region X Commitment to Safety Award: Troy Swanberg Honored for 33 Years of Dedication**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Troy Swanberg, Mark Rausch, and Rich Santa

NATCA congratulates Troy Swanberg (Engineer/Great Lakes Region, EGL) on receiving the 2024 Region X Commitment to Safety Award. With over three decades of service, Troy has been instrumental in enhancing the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS). His leadership in creating and facilitating risk management workshops has significantly reduced unscheduled outages during project implementations, safeguarding aviation operations nationwide. A charter member of NATCA, Troy's unwavering dedication to safety continues to inspire his colleagues and elevate the standards of excellence in aviation safety.

NATCA Region X Vice President Mark Rausch presented Swanberg with the Region X Commitment to Safety Award honoring his 33 years of dedication to the safety of the NAS.

[Read more about about the Commitment to Safety Award and watch the video of the award presentation.](#)

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## **Southern Region's Heroic Save Earns 2024 President's Award at CFS**



**Photo (left to right):** Andrew LeBovidge, Steven Brader, Brader's son, Jaime Romaker, William Mitchell, Dan McCabe, and Rich Santa

At CFS 2024's Archie League Medal of Safety Awards program tonight, the 2024 President's Award, the highest honor for a flight assist, has been awarded to the Southern Region team comprising Steven Brader, William Mitchell, and Jaime Romaker of Nashville ATCT (BNA) for their exceptional handling of a critical situation. The pilot, facing deteriorating weather and low fuel, relied on the quick thinking and expert guidance of these dedicated professionals. Their coordinated efforts to locate a safe landing spot and guide the pilot through challenging conditions ultimately ensured the safe landing of the aircraft at John C. Tune Airport. This extraordinary act of skill and dedication was recognized as the best flight assist of the year by NATCA President Rich Santa.

[Read more about the President's Award and watch the video of the award presentation.](#)

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NATCA | 1325 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20005 US

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