

Balloon Federation of America

Nomination for the 2004 Montgolfier Award

‘Outstanding Performance in a Gas Balloon’

Mark Sullivan demonstrated significant performance in Gas Ballooning during 2004. This nomination is in recognition of his outstanding performance in the 48th Coupe Gordon Bennett and the 2004 World Gas Balloon Championship. These two events have a long history and the list of competitors in each event is compiled from the best gas pilots in the world. Gas ballooning is by its very nature an extreme sport requiring excellent piloting, navigating and planning skills. Sullivan has repeatedly displayed these skills in the process securing 3rd place in each of these two events.

In the 48th Coupe Gordon Bennett, Sullivan flew 1471Km in 44-plus hours during two days and nights over the Baltic Sea. His flight was at times through blinding and torrential rain storms. This flight was one of the longer in Gordon Bennett histories; it originated in France and concluded in Sweden and particularly showcased Sullivan’s strategic skills and competence in his sport.

Less than a week later he flew two flights at the 2004 World Gas Ballooning Championships in Germany with a total of seven tasks to be performed. Once again Sullivan displayed skill, accuracy and consistency in scoring all targets and flying from Germany to the border of Poland and Kaliningrad, Russia.

The combination of skills and expertise exhibited by Sullivan in these two flights reflects his professionalism. Without a doubt he has evolved from competence to mastery in this sport. Given his achievements as well as his long history of additional accomplishments in gas ballooning, we submit him most deserving of the Montgolfier Award for 2004.