



# FAI BALLOONING COMMISSION

## Hall of Fame Nomination Form

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ales \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ KUBICEK \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_ Czech Republic \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of Birth: (Year/Month/Day): \_\_\_ 1955/March/31 \_\_\_\_\_

Year and place of Death (Year/Month/Day): \_\_\_\_\_ --- \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Biography (250 words):

Balloon manufacturer and designer, visionary

In 1980 Ales with several friends established Aviatik balloon club with the purpose of building and flying hot air balloons. This difficult task was even harder due to the tough communist's regime all the activities of the club were under surveillance of the countries secret police. Ales became a master of the art in negotiating with the government authorities and their officials.

In 1983 the first balloon took its maiden flight. Since then Ales flew thousands of hours, training many Czech and International pilots, winning competitions, testing new balloons, and acting as an examiner.

Members of the Aviatik club were not allowed to build more than couple of balloons. In order to continue, Ales persuaded the state owned company Aerotechnik Kunovice to employ him and open a production line for balloons. About 30 balloons under the Aerotechnik brand were built.

In 1990, in the ruins of an old building, Ales founded Kubicek Balloons. With great effort and attitude and a lot of hard work Ales and his team transformed his company to one of the most advanced balloon manufacturers in the world.

In March 2014, in a remote Colombian province, Ales suffered a traumatic head injury. Since then he is confined to a wheelchair and with the care of his wife Nada, family, and friends he fights the most difficult battle of his life – to improve his medical state.

The factory still thrives today with Ales' vision guiding the factory's strategy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Achievements, honors and awards:

1980 Ales and friends start Aviatik club Brno  
1983 Maiden flight of 1<sup>st</sup> balloon  
1986 Starts production of Aerotechnik Balloons  
1990 Kubicek Balloons founded  
1990 Ales founded Czech Balloon Federation and becomes its first president  
1992 Kubicek balloon type certificate obtained and first Kubicek balloon sold  
1994 First hot air airship built  
1997 Production of Kubicek Polyester started  
2008 Pilot school founded at Radesin Castle  
2013 Ales inducted into The Czech Balloon Federation Hall of Fame  
2017 Received the Montgolfier Diploma  
2019 Kubicek Museum opened at the Castle showing the history of Kubicek Balloons.  
2019 The factory employs 75 people producing over 130 balloons annually. Kubicek Balloons has produced over 1,700 balloons since its conception. None of the other balloon manufacturers from the "Eastern Block" have achieved anything close to this.

Number of photographs attached: 8 + one movie "UP INTO THE CLOUDS – History of hot air balloons production in Czechoslovakia"

Please send this form to the CIA Secretary



Ales (sitting at sewing machine) worked with his brother Ivan (on the left). They were true Czech Montgolfier brothers.



Research using ladder platform. Measuring of temperature and inner pressure. Ales is on top of the platform.



Maiden flight of Ales' first balloon – the passenger is his wife Nada.



Ales flying the first Czech cloud hopper with his son Petr.



Building the factory....



One of Ales' last balloon flights before his injury.



The factory today



Ales' big hobby was American Country music