

Colonel John Victor Dallin distinguished himself by outstanding service to the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as one of the true pioneers of aviation.

Born in January 1897 in Bristol, England, Colonel Dallin graduated from the School of Military Aeronautics, Oxford, England as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, becoming a pilot in 1914 at the tender age of seventeen. During World War I, Colonel Dallin was a combat fighter pilot with the Royal Flying Corps.

After coming to America, Colonel Dallin joined the 103rd Observation Squadron, Pennsylvania National Guard in 1926. He assumed positions of steadily increasing responsibility with the Squadron, becoming its commander in 1934. Colonel Dallin's personal efforts turned the 103rd Observation Squadron into one of the finest Air Corps Squadrons in the United States and earned him the Pennsylvania meritorious Service medal. His efforts to build the 103rd into an efficient, effective and well-trained fighting unit bore fruit when the unit showed its mettle in December 1941 by flying the first anti-submarine missions out of Providence, Rhode Island. His organizational ability, drive and insistence on unit training provided the basis for the unit's combat effectiveness both in the Atlantic anti-submarine mission and then the China-Burman-India Theater of Operations. Called to active duty as Division Aviation Officer for the 28th Division in 1941, he was subsequently assigned Commanding Officer of the 59th Observation Group and Air Officer at HQ 2nd Army Corps. Beginning in 1942, Colonel Dallin served overseas in a variety of important assignments.

In addition to his outstanding service as a pioneer of aviation, Colonel Dallin was also one of the true pioneers of civil aviation in the United States and Pennsylvania. He was issued a pilot license #198 by the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Administration. Colonel Dallin pioneered aerial photography, producing the first aerial map of the entire City of Philadelphia. His direct and concerted efforts resulted in the development of the Philadelphia International Airport. From 1920 until 1938, he worked tirelessly in the face of opposition to bring aviation to Philadelphia. In 1940, he was appointed the first airport manager for Philadelphia and later appointed Director of Aviation for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. After World War II, Colonel Dallin was appointed as Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics for the City of Philadelphia.

Colonel John Victor Dallin passed away October 1991 at his home in Southern Pines, North Carolina. He was 94 years old.

The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel John Victor Dallin as a pioneer of military and civilian aviation reflect great credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania National Guard truly warrant his posthumous induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.