

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on December 17, 1903, at 10:35 a.m., the world's first successful powered aircraft invented and built by Wilbur and Orville Wright, flew at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, for a 12 second, 120-foot journey; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma shares Congress' vision in the importance of honoring 100 years of powered flight nationally and internationally by commemorating and celebrating aviation's rich history in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma made its mark in aviation/aerospace history shortly after the Wright Brothers' first flight with Clyde Cessna building his first airplanes in Oklahoma in the 1910s, Charles Lindberg establishing Waynoka, OK as a major stop in the Transcontinental Air Transport route in the late 1920s, Paul and Tom Braniff starting Braniff Airlines, also in the late 1920s, Wiley Post and Will Rogers, Oklahoma natives, making many historical flights including Wiley Post's record-setting around-the-world flight in a Lockheed Vega in 1931, B-24, A-24 and A-26 bombers for WWII being manufactured by Douglas Aircraft Company in Tulsa's bomber plant in the 1940s, and the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, training forty-two Israeli men, known as "The Spartan Boys," to work on engines and airframes in 1949; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is recognized as a leader in the aviation/aerospace industry with over 300 aviation and aerospace companies including, American Airlines Central Maintenance Base, Boeing, Bizjet International, Commander Aircraft, Flight Safety International, Great Plains Airlines, Luscombe Aircraft, the NORDAM Group, Southwest Airlines, and AAR Aircraft Services as well as Tinker Air Force Base and the Federal Aviation Administration Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center; which provide approximately 143,000 jobs, a \$4.3 billion dollar payroll, and an industrial output of \$11.7 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma has 123 public airports, ranking Oklahoma in the top ten insofar as the number of public airports is concerned, and has had more astronauts than any other state; and

WHEREAS, the future of a safe, secure, efficient, and progressive aviation/aerospace system is dependent on energizing state and national policies, well informed and educated citizens, a technologically proficient workforce, bold pioneering research, and the ingenuity, perseverance and courage that characterized the first 100 years of flight history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD HENRY, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the month of December, 2003, as

"OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT MONTH"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 22nd day of August, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and three, and of the State of Oklahoma in the ninety-fifth year.

Kathy J. Jelf
SECRETARY OF STATE Acting Assistant

Brad Henry
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

GOVERNOR