



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, in 1939, several significant events took place to usher in a new era of general aviation that would solidify its important place in our American society, including:

- The American general aviation industry transitioned from the “Golden Age” to full mobilization for World War II, during which the airplane changed from a slow, wood-and-fabric biplane to a fast, sleek, all-metal monoplane.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Civilian Pilot Training Act, which provided a needed boost to general aviation by providing pilot training to 20,000 college students each year. At the peak of the Civilian Pilot Training Program, 1,132 educational institutions and 1,460 flight schools participated in the program.
- President Roosevelt also established National Aviation Day in 1939 to celebrate Orville Wright’s birthday.
- The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association was founded to protect the freedom to fly while keeping general aviation safe, fun, and affordable. Today, AOPA is the largest and most trusted resource for all things related to general aviation.

Whereas, today, the U.S. general aviation industry comprises more than 200,000 aircraft, safely flies more than 26 million flight hours and registers 30 million safe takeoffs and landings per year;

Whereas, general aviation contributes more than \$247 billion in economic impact and supports 1.2 million jobs across the country, and often serves as a vital lifeline for communities through missions of disaster relief, humanitarian aid, law enforcement, and agricultural support;

Whereas, more than 650,000 registered pilots in the United States access more than 5,100 public-use airports and another 14,000 privately owned airfields, more than any other country in the world. These pilots and airports connect communities across America with the National Air Transportation system;

Whereas, general aviation is safe! What’s more, it’s safer than it ever has been, and trending even safer. General aviation safety performance over the last several decades is impressive — the fatal accident rate (our traditional measuring stick) has dropped to 0.73 per

100,000 flight hours, which marks a historic record. That's less than half of what it was in the mid-'90s;

Whereas, over the last 85 years, our citizens have marveled at the continual technological advancements in general aviation which have improved our lives, enabled access to communities across the country, created hundreds of billions of dollars in economic impact and growth, and propelled the U.S. as the world leader in general aviation;

Whereas, people travel from around the world to access the exceptional training and the freedom in this country to fly general aviation aircraft. Foreign governments send their most critical pilots here for training to fly their most precious dignitaries and train for careers in the airlines;

Whereas, Americans Orville and Wilbur Wright first harnessed powered flight at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, and Charles Lindbergh became the most famous person the world had ever known when he departed U.S. soil in an American-built aircraft to cross the Atlantic, providing a deep source of American pride and identity;

Whereas, the state of Utah has more than 1200 registered general aviation aircraft, more than 11,500 licensed pilots, and more than 170 public and private airports and heliports.

Whereas, General Aviation brings over \$290 million in economic activity and supports 2742 jobs to the state of Utah (2020 Utah Economic Impact Study); and,

Whereas, the National Celebration of GA Flyover in Washington, D.C. on May 11, 2024, presents a tremendous opportunity to seize the public imagination, reflect our ability to safely achieve innovative technological advancements, and be a defining moment in remembering the past, present, and future significance of general aviation in the United States;

Now, therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare May 2024 as

General Aviation Month in Utah



Spencer J. Cox
Governor