VIRGINIA EAGLES

Official Newsletter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Spring/Summer Edition 2026

VIRGINIA EAGLES
The Official Newsletter of the
VIRGINIA AERONAUTICAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE VITAL TO OUR ORGANIZATION'S DAILY OPERATIONS AND THE GROWTH OF OUR CHAPTERS.
NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP? CALL: (540) 376-3265

The VAHS includes inspirational programs in preservation, education and appreciation of Virginia air and space history for current and future generations.

CONTACT US

VAHS, P.O. BOX 9064, FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22403-9064
EMAIL US: vahsonline@gmail.com • PHONE: (540) 376-3265
VISIT US ON THE WEB: https://virginiaaviationhistory.org

Notes from the Right Seat

Greetings Fellow VAHS Members and Supporters,

This is my first Chairman's Message for the Virginia Eagles Newsletter since I was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors in January. I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting all VAHS members so I will start with a short career summary FYI. I served 22 years in the Air Force as a pilot, intelligence officer, Air Staff Officer and Division Chief in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force, International Affairs. Following retirement from active duty, I served another 21 years as a senior executive in the Federal Civil Service responsible for management and oversight of Department of Defense Foreign Military Sales, International Cooperative R&D and Foreign Military Training programs. I hold FAA private, commercial, single and multi-engine, instrument and heavy jet ratings. I was a member of the Quantico Marine Corps Aeroclub for 10 years and was a docent at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and Shannon Air Museum in Fredericksburg. I have been a VAHS member since 2018.

The primary purposes for this initial Chairman's Message are to share my thoughts on the significance of historical preservation and the important service VAHS provides to society, and to inform members regarding VAHS accomplishments over the last six months.

I have been an avid amateur aviation historian for more than sixty years. During that time, I became aware of numerous reasons why aviation history and knowledge thereof are important. From my perspective, the following five reasons are the most relevant.

- Inspires people, particularly young people, to pursue aerospace careers.
- Instills hope and confidence in people that they can be successful in life.
- Satisfies a latent hunger for knowledge and understanding about the world around us.
- Provides wisdom, lessons learned and best practices to inform decisions about current and future endeavors.
- Demonstrates the importance of teamwork and information sharing for the advancement of science, technology and innovation.

Unfortunately, history is short lived if it is not properly documented, preserved and communicated / disseminated. This is where organizations like the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society play a vital role. Our Hall of Fame (HoF) selection and induction program, Hof portraits and archives public displays, scholarship programs, video and book projects, and history tours and guest speaker events are keeping Virginia aeronautical history alive and memorializing those outstanding Virginians who made that history.

In March of this year, we placed a total of 40 HoF portraits on display at Stafford, Warrenton and Hanover Airports and at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach. See photos attached at the end of this article. Eight more will go on display at Williamsburg Airport soon. We will have all 150 portraits on display at regional airports around the Commonwealth by the end of 2027.

The VAHS archives and other tangible assets were moved to a new climate-controlled storage facility the last week in March. We are now in the process of cataloguing all materials in the collection.

I am also pleased to report that our first public display of archive materials was installed in the Stafford Airport conference room on April 12. See photos at the end of this article.

The VAHS annual Membership Meeting was held on May 2 at Horsefeathers Airport. Thirty-four members attended, including six HoF members. Total attendance was several hundred. Seven new members joined and seven members renewed their memberships. This was the best single day for VAHS recruiting in memory. The event also marked the first use of our new mobile digital payments system. The event netted approximately $6000 for VAHS. Many thanks to HoF member Chuck Tippett for donating the use of his airport and making all the event arrangements.

The HoF Nominations Committee was formed on May 5. The committee is reviewing nomination packages.

On May 7, a new Annual Membership Meeting lessons learned, and best practices document was developed to guide/facilitate future event planning.

VAHS participated in a fly-in and pancake breakfast at Williamsburg Airport with the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Capital Wing on May 9. This was the first joint event with CAF pursuant to a cooperative agreement. Our HoF and archives display table had numerous visitors and four new members joined. Our new mobile digital payments system was used successfully for the second time linked to a personal iPhone hotspot for internet connectivity.

The Community Foundation Board approved VAHS 2026 Captain Worley Scholarship Committee recommendations May 11.

June 6, VAHS participated in a “Women Can Fly” event at Warrenton Airport. Our existing HoF display table featured women members with a second table for archives display and recruiting new members and soliciting donations. Two new members joined and several other potential members took membership forms.

June 13, the CAF and VAHS participated jointly in an aviation event at Warrenton Airport. The VAHS had a HoF and archives display table to solicit new members and donations.

As you would expect, there are substantial time, effort and financial costs associated with our programs, projects and activities. VAHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. We have no big endowments and receive no government grants or subsidies. The Society is totally dependent on the support of our members and donors.

If we are to continue the important and necessary work of preserving Virginia aeronautical history indefinitely into the future, it is imperative that we grow our membership and increase donations over time. In that regard, I ask that all members actively recruit new members and solicit donations. If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, please do so ASAP. And this/next year please consider renewing at the Sustaining Member level and participating in our donor program. VAHS also desperately needs volunteers who are willing to donate their time and effort to help with our programs, projects and activities. Please see forms and instructions in this newsletter for joining, donating and volunteering, or contact Sue Baker (VAHS Administrator) at vahsonline@gmail.com or (540) 376-3265.

Dick Genaille
Chairman of the Board

VAHS Projects

If you're inspired by the rich story of aviation, there are many VAHS projects you can support to help keep that history alive.

Scholarships

Every year, we help students aspiring to be aviators, engineers, and others in aerospace careers. Opportunities abound for people who would help select recipients or find ways to add to the scholarship fund. Three students were awarded $3,500.00 in 2025.

Learn more on our website: https://www.vahsonline.com/programs/aviation-scholarships/

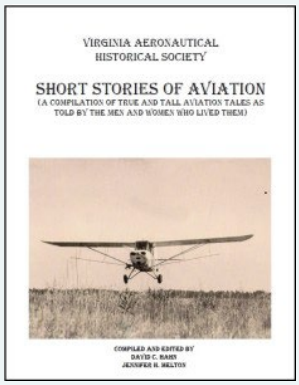
Historic Markers

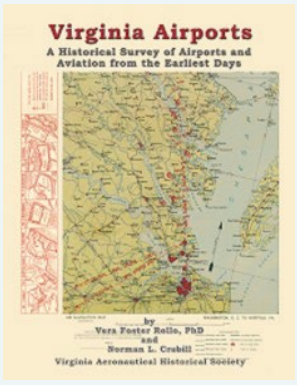
VAHS has placed 20 markers around the Commonwealth, each of which explains an historic event in the history of aeronautics in that location. The project has not placed any new markers in the last 10 years, so it's time to extend it. Locations needing updates or new markers include Wallops Island and Gaines Farm. (Look it up!) We need volunteers to research sites, seek funding, and assist with placement.

Virginia Aviation History Project

Our two books created in this program were the **"Short Stories of Aviation"** and **"Virginia Airports."** Both need updates and supplements. Here again, volunteers are needed to do research, find the stories, and help to secure funding for printing and distribution.

These books are also available for purchase – contact Sue at Headquarters for more information.





There's much to do. If you have read this far, you already have an interest in the vast and fascinating history of aviation. It's easy to be a part of historical education and preservation. You can participate by supporting VAHS in any of these projects.

Chapter Information

Support the Preservation of Virginia's Aviation History

Join the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society in our mission to document and celebrate aviation across the Commonwealth. You can contribute by sending us newspaper clippings about your local airport, aviators, or aviation-related events. We also welcome photographs of Virginia airports, and anything connected to the state's aviation heritage. All submissions will be scanned and archived to ensure they're accessible on our website for future generations.

Don't forget to renew your membership—your continued support helps us keep aviation history alive!

Volunteer Opportunities

If you plan to be at a fly-in or airshow, or your airport is hosting one, we would love to have you represent VAHS in some capacity. Please contact the office if you have information about an upcoming fly-in or airshow that you think we should attend!

Join A VAHS Chapter

Pick one close to you and attend a meeting. We have Chapters in the Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula, Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, Warrenton, and Richmond.

Warrenton Chapter
Contact: Bob Taylor
Ph: (703) 598-7205
Email: dogofgold@yahoo.com

Williamsburg "Eagles" Chapter
Contact: Tim McSwain
Ph: (973) 668-0168
Email: timofly@yahoo.com

Fredericksburg Chapter
Contact: Dick Genaille
Ph: (540) 376-3265
Email: richardgenaille@gmail.com

Richmond Chapter
Contact: Tim Donnellan, Coordinator
Ph: (804) 640-0238

Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula
Contact: Jody Nelson
Ph: (804) 435-2842
Email: nelsonjody@verizon.net

Contact your local chapter to find out when the next meeting is scheduled.

Feel free to contact the VAHS for questions or more information
Phone number: 540-376-3265 • Email: vahsonline@gmail.com

2026 Membership & Renewals

Please return the form by mail, email, on our website or call the office.

VAHS Membership 2026

DATE _____ **New ( ) Renewal ( )**

NAME_____

ADDRESS _____

_____

CHAPTER _____

PHONE _____

E-mail: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Please check one: [ ] Cash [ ] Check

[] Amex [] Mastercard [] Visa [] Discover

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Return to:
VAHS
PO Box 9064
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22403-9064
(540) 376-3265
e-mail: vahsonline@gmail.com

Membership Categories:

[ ] **1-Year Sustaining Membership $149.00**
(Includes spouse - New members - 2 VAHS pins)

[ ] **1 Year Basic Membership $ 69.00**
(Includes spouse - New members -2 VAHS pins)

[ ] **1 Year Basic Membership $ 39.00**
(New member -VAHS pin)

[ ] **Military/Student Membership $29.00**
(New member -VAHS pin)

***Add $_____tax exempt donation **Add $40.00 if you prefer getting the Eagle Newsletter in print**

Name(s) for Event Badge(s):

_____

_____

A member in good standing must have dues currently paid.

VAHS Annual Membership Meeting … a big success!

On May 2, the VAHS Annual Membership Meeting was held at Horsefeathers Airport. The program included a VAHS business meeting, Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame (HoF) portrait and archives displays, silent and live auction of aviation related items, VAHS merchandise sales, static displays of vintage aircraft, airplane rides, tethered hot air balloon rides, live music, Irish dancers, moon bounce and food trucks.

Thirty-four members including six HoF members (John Corradi, Van Crosby, Ron Gatewood, Bob Hepp, Bud Oakey and Chuck Tippett) attended. Total attendance was several hundred. Seven new members joined and seven renewed their membership. This was the best single day membership increase in the last ten years. Sales, auctions and donations netted a record $6048 for VAHS. This event also saw the initial use of our new mobile digital payments system. VAHS now has the capability to digitally process credit and debit card transactions at or away from the office. Many thanks to Chuck Tippett for donating the use of his facility and making all the event arrangements.

VAHS – Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Capital Wing Cooperative Arrangement

Please plan to enjoy as many of these events as possible and support the VAHS and CAF. VAHS is seeking volunteer members to work at the VAHS table at these events.

Please contact the office, vahsonline@gmail.com or (540) 376-3265 if you can help.

The VAHS and CAF Capital Wing at Culpeper Airport have agreed to cooperate as regards participation in both organizations' respective events and to advocate those events in our respective newsletters, web sites and social media posts. VAHS and CAF Capital Wing play vital roles in the preservation of Aviation history that will be enhanced by working together.

Pursuant to this arrangement, the CAF Capital Wing will be represented at the VAHS Annual Meeting and VAHS will have the opportunity to promote our mission at the the following CAF Capital Wing events in Virginia.

May 9-10 KJGG Williamsburg Warbird Expo – attended by VAHS

May 16-17 KSHD Shenandoah Valley Warbird Expo

June 13-14 KHWY Warrenton with Airbase Arizona B-17/B-25 – attended by VAHS

July 11 KCJR Culpeper Wings & Wheels

August 15-16 KPSK New River Warbird Expo

September 26 KJYO Leesburg Airshow

October 3 KOKV Winchester Wings & Wheels

October 10 KCJR Culpeper AirFest

October 24-25 KCJR Culpeper Fall Foliage Flights

Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Flying Victory Tour

The Warrenton-Fauquier Airport was the venue for the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Flying Victory Tour on Saturday June 13, 2026. Both the Culpeper, Virginia and Arizona Wings participated with static displays and airplane rides in vintage WWII B-17, B-25, TBM, T-6 and Stearman biplane aircraft.

Pursuant to a collaborative agreement with the CAF, VAHS had Hall of Fame portraits and archives display tables in the terminal. VAHS Chairman Dick Genaille and Administrator Sue Baker represented VAHS and worked the tables.

The Copilot

I am the copilot. I sit on the right.
It's up to me to be quick and bright;
I never talk back for I have regrets,
But I have to remember what the Captain forgets.
I make out the Flight Plan and study the weather,
Pull up the gear, stand by to feather;
Make out the mail forms and do the reporting,
And fly the old crate while the Captain is courting.
I take the readings, adjust the power,
Put on the heaters when we're in a shower;
Tell him where we are on the darkest night,
And do all the bookwork without any light.
I call for my Captain and buy him cokes;
I always laugh at his corny jokes,
And once in awhile when his landings are rusty
I always come through with, "By gosh it's gusty!"
All in all I'm a general stooge,
As I sit on the right of the man I call "Scrooge";
I guess you think that is past understanding,
But maybe some day he will give me a landing.

— Keith Murray

OUR GOAL FOR 2026 IS $40,000

FUNDRAISER FORM

VIRGINIA AERONAUTICAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VAHS

Yes! I want to advance the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society's mission.

In order to help the VAHS inspire and capture the imagination by connecting people with the story of air and space in Virginia, I am enclosing my gift to the annual fund in the amount of:

☐ **$**_____ ☐ **$2,500** ☐ **$1,500** ☐ **$500** ☐ **$250** ☐ **$100**

☐ My company will match my gift. Form enclosed.

Name (as you wish to be recognized): _____

☐ I prefer to remain anonymous.

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____ **Email**: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ **Enclosed is my check payable to the VAHS.**

☐ **Please charge my credit card.**

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card No.: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Signature (required): _____

The annual fund donation provides an opportunity to give special recognition in the "Virginia Eagles" newsletter for those gifts over $100 or more. Corporate matching gifts count toward your total annual contribution.

Please mail this entire form along with your tax-deductible contribution to:

VAHS, PO Box 9064, Fredericksburg, VA 22403-9064.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION: THE VIRGINIA AERONAUTICAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION. ACCORDINGLY, CONTRIBUTION ARE FULL TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWABLE BY LAW. EIN# 54-1062849

Bill Schultz

William G. Schultz, 96, of Williamsburg, Virginia passed away peacefully on April 24, surrounded by friends and neighbors. He was a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, born on November 12, 1929.

After high school graduation, Bill enlisted in the US Navy and became an Aviation Electronics Technician. His Navy career was very successful and Bill attained the rate of E-6 during his four year enlistment. After his time in the Navy, Bill was first employed by Raytheon Corporation but eventually spent the remainder of his career at Grumman Aircraft. As a field service engineer, Bill, along with his wife Fran, traveled extensively overseas living in Malaysia, Egypt, Japan, and Australia.

Throughout his life, Bill lived and breathed Navy and aviation. He was one of the founders of the A-6 Intruder Association and was made an honorary Naval Aviator, call sign "IRONWORKS." He was also a lifetime dedicated member of the Tailhook Association. Bill was a past president and remained heavily involved with the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society.

In his retirement, Bill and his beloved wife Fran, moved from Long Island and settled in Williamsburg. He became active in the community, serving as the first president of the Laurel Lake Owner's Association. Invariably Bill could be found lunching at the local Williamsburg Airport, often with current or retired Naval aviators. He was a bon vivant, raconteur, a man about town. His wit was unparalleled.

Credit & full obituary here; https://www.dailypress.com/obituaries/william-g-schultz-williamsburg-va/

Linda Gatewood

It is with great sadness that our family shares the passing of Linda Gatewood, who peacefully went home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in Warrenton, Virginia, surrounded by the love of her family.

For more than eighty four years, Linda was the steady and loving light of our family. She was deeply devoted to her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters, extended family, and friends. Her extraordinary gift for caring for others touched countless lives through quiet acts of kindness, selflessness, compassion, and unwavering love.

Linda's story began in Carthage, Indiana, where she fondly recalled meeting her life-long companion, Ronald Gatewood, in kindergarten. By the time Ron graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, they already had three children and were preparing to welcome a fourth. Together, they quickly embarked on a long and distinguished journey with the United States Marine Corps.

Following their military years, Linda was a key support in building a family aircraft maintenance business at the Warrenton-Fauquier Airport. Through every chapter of life — the many moves, deployments, separations, hardships, and adventures — Linda approached each season with grace and flexibility. She once reflected around the kitchen table with her family that she loved every place they lived in its own special way and would not have changed a thing.

Linda's husband and children often described her strength and faith as "truly amazing." Linda and Ron shared sixty-five years of marriage through every joy and challenge life brought their way. Together they endured more than twenty moves, lengthy wartime separations during unaccompanied military tours, and the many sacrifices required of military families.

Credit & full obituary here, https://www.moserfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Linda-Louise-Gatewood?obId=48335291

Captain Earle Worley Scholarship, 2026

Applications for the Captain Earle Worley Scholarship have been reviewed, and three students have been selected to receive $3,500 for their education in 2026-2027. They will be notified this summer. This year the Community Foundation of Richmond began using the Universal Application where students complete one application for the approximately 70 scholarship opportunities offered, and then complete supplemental questions as required by specific scholarships.

community foundation
for a greater Richmond

Captain Earle Worley Scholarship Fund
Quarterly Fund Statement for the period ending
March 31, 2026

FUND SUMMARY

Fund Activity	Current Period	Year-to-Date
Beginning Fund Balance	$321,281.90	$321,281.90
Contributions and Investments		
Net Investment Return	11,548.50	11,548.50
Withdrawals		
Unrestricted support to CF	(788.61)	(788.61)
ENDING FUND BALANCE	**$332,041.79**	**$332,041.79**

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE PERIOD No contributions were received this period.

GRANTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD No grants were made this period.

Charitable funds invested in Spider Management Company, the Foundation's Signature Pool, will reflect updated quarterly investment results if the final results vary from the preliminary results by more than 1%. Final investment results include updated values from the private investments held by Spider Management Company. If final results differ from preliminary results by less than 1%, the activity will be reflected in the next quarter's investment results. Quarterly performance commentary will be available on the fund advisor portal.

VAHS Scholarship Committee members for 2026:

Robert Bowen – Retired Executive Director of the Norfolk Airport Authority; Member of the VA Aviation Board; Board Member, Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Anthony Cassese – Retired Aviation Attorney; Board Member, Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Robert Cowgill – Managing Director of ACI Aviation Consulting; Retired American Captain; Board Member, Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Greg Fletcher – Major Civil Air Patrol, Chief of Staff VA Wing, Civil Air Patrol; Board Member, Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Ronald Gatewood – Retired US Marine Colonel, Senior Planner HQMC, Plans, Policies, and Operations Aircraft Maintenance & Operations Business Owner & Airport Developer; Board Member, Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society – Committee Chairman.

Tess Robertson – Student, Bachelor of Science (Major: Political Science Pre-Law), Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Concentration: Aviation Management); Board Member, Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society.

Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame Spotlight: Carolyn A. Guertin, 2024

Carolyn A. Guertin (1928–2020) was the first female member of the Civil Air Patrol and the eleventh member overall. She joined the Civil Air Patrol on 1 December 1941, its founding date. She served the organization in multiple ground roles during World War II, including tracking in-flight aircraft. In 1952, Guertin founded a Civil Air Patrol squadron in Richmond, Virginia. The squadron was later named "The Carolyn A. Guertin Cadet Squadron" in her honor. At 92, Guertin was promoted to the rank of colonel within the Civil Air Patrol. She was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in December 2014 for her contributions to the Civil Air Patrol's actions in World War II.

The Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame was created to commemorate and preserve outstanding aviation contributions made in Virginia or by Virginians. Many individual efforts have resulted in the pioneering, growth, or development of aviation and aerospace and must be recorded for future generations. Each year, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society Board of Directors selects one or more individuals for recognition and induction into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

DISCOVER EVERY HALL OF FAME MEMBER ON OUR WEBSITE OR SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION FOR THE 2027 INDUCTEES.

SAVE THE DATE

VIRGINIA AVIATION HALL OF FAME BANQUET

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

FORD'S COLONY • WILLIAMSBURG

Mark your calendar for a night dedicated to preserving and honoring the individuals who have defined aviation excellence in Virginia.

FOR DETAILS & MORE INFORMATION:

PHONE NUMBER: 540-376-3265 • EMAIL: VAHSONLINE@GMAIL.COM

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE MAY 14, 2027

Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame
Official Nomination Form

I/We nominate _____ for election to the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

Nominee's Address _____

Nominee's Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Nominee's Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Date of Death (if Deceased) _____

If Deceased, Name of Nearest Living Relative: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Location and range of dates where nominee's qualifying work was accomplished:

_____

_____

_____

Location(s) and the number of years the nominee resided in Virginia:

_____

_____

_____

Nomination Submitted by _____

(Individual or Organization Proposing Candidate's Name)

Address _____

Phone: _____E-mail address: _____

Nominations must be postmarked no later than May 14, 2027 in order to be considered in the current year selection process.
Submit application and supporting documentation to:
Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society

Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame
Attention: Hall of Fame Chairman
P.O. 9064
Fredericksburg, VA 22403

The Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame was created to commemorate and preserve outstanding aviation contributions made in Virginia or by Virginians. Many individual efforts have resulted in the pioneering, growth, or development of aviation and aerospace and must be recorded for future generations. Each year, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society Board of Directors selects one or more individuals for recognition and induction into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

To be considered, the nominee will have demonstrated through their innovative ideas and dedicated service their commitment to the advancement of aviation and aerospace in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States. The nominee's service and achievements must have been accomplished in the Commonwealth of Virginia or the nominee must be native Virginian or a Virginian by choice. The Selection Committee is appointed by the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society President. All nominations shall be submitted to the Committee for review of completeness and eligibility. The Committee shall then recommend qualified nominees to the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society Board of Directors for final selection.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be made by any aviation organization, any member of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society, or by any firm or individual familiar with the nominee's achievements. However, each nomination must be submitted on an official nomination form supplied by the Society. No candidate shall be considered by the Selection Committee unless formally nominated in advance in accordance with these rules. The Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society Board of Directors shall consider those nominees recommended by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. The number selected each year shall be determined by the Board of Directors. All nominees not selected will continue to be considered in succeeding years without having to be re-nominated. However, any additional or new supporting data on behalf of these persons may be submitted at any time and is encouraged.

NOMINATION PACKAGE FORMAT

• All nominations will be submitted on the official VAHS Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame Nomination Form and will be accompanied by documentation supporting the nomination. These documents make up the nomination package.

• Two copies of each nomination package will be submitted to the VAHS.

• Each package must include:

An overview of the candidate's achievements and how they have benefited aviation and aerospace in the Commonwealth or the United States.

This overview must include specific examples of the nominee's:

Achievements toward the enhancement of aviation and aerospace;

Contributions to the development of others in aviation, i.e., pilots, mechanics, etc.;

Service to Virginia in aviation activities either directly or indirectly; and

How individuals, organizations or groups have benefited from the nominee's work.

A resume-type listing of the nominee's achievements. List dates and places of work accomplished, professional affiliations and awards, degrees held, rank achieved, etc.

A brief personal biographical sketch of the nominee.

• The following additional information should be included and is recommended:

Letters of Recommendation attesting to the nominee's qualifications.

Copies of any photos, newspaper or professional journal articles, and other documentation to support the nomination and any other information pertinent to the nominee's qualifications.

DOAV Director's Column

Spring/Summer 2026 VAHS Newsletter

The new year is off to a great start at the Virginia Department of Aviation!

The Virginia General Assembly has recently concluded the 2026 session on March 14, 2026, and I'm pleased to report that they unanimously passed HB 1231, codifying the modernization of the Commonwealth Aviation Fund distribution formula and updating airport classification terminology. Virginia law prescribes how the fund is administered by the Agency and the Virginia Aviation Board. Prior to this legislative change, the distribution formula had not been substantively changed since the program's inception, despite Virginia's aviation system growing and evolving significantly over that time. With the changes approved and signed by the Governor, Virginia will be able to strategically invest in the airport system and provide the funding needed for growing general aviation and commercial airports, while protecting support for the smallest and most vulnerable airports. Our team has worked diligently on this development for several years, starting with an extensive 2-year project to update the state system plan, which cataloged anticipated needs over the next 20+ years and served as a basis for the changes to the Commonwealth Aviation Fund.

More good news – the Agency recently completed the much-anticipated Economic Impact Study for the Commonwealth's aviation system and the results are clear: Virginia's airports are driving the Commonwealth to new economic heights. Our airport system generates $42 billion in total economic output, supports nearly 220,000 jobs, and produces $15.2 billion in wages. This economic impact underscores the importance of every airport in our system. The last comprehensive study of this type was conducted in 2017. Since that time, aviation's impact on Virginia's economy and the communities it's touches, has soared! Aviation in the Commonwealth is strong and provides tremendous economic and societal benefits, please help us pass this good news along!

Greg Campbell
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Together, We Honor and Protect Aviation History

The Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society connects people with the story of air and space in Virginia, and you can be part of that mission. By volunteering, joining a chapter, or supporting one of VAHS's many ongoing projects, you help preserve aviation history for future generations. This organization grows stronger with every member who steps in —let's build something great together.