



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Aviation Year in Virginia

WHEREAS, 2003 is the 100th anniversary of the first flight of Orville and Wilbur Wright which took place on December 17, 1903 on the wind-swept hills of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina and the 105th Congress of the United States has declared 2003 as the “Aviation Centennial Year” in America;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is home to the Wright Brothers’ first military flight at Fort Myer in 1909, the National Aeronautics and Space Administrations’ Langley Research Center, Aviation/Space Development at Wallop’s Island and dozens of military aviation installations, to include the home base of the first F-22 Raptors, America’s supersonic air superiority stealth fighters;

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian Institute’s Udvar –Hazy Center will be opened on December 17, 2003, the largest aviation museum in the world and the Commonwealth is home to some of the finest aviation museums and historically significant aviation milestones in America and General Billy Mitchell profoundly changed the very nature of airpower in the coastal waters of Virginia;

WHEREAS, aviation in the Commonwealth provides a significant annual economic impact that exceeds \$15 billion a year and assists with medical activities, law enforcement, agricultural and search and rescue;

WHEREAS the Commonwealth boasts 69 category I, II and III airports and the Commonwealth has the highest number of licensed pilots per capita of any state in the nation;

WHEREAS two of the nation’s busiest air terminals, Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport are situated in the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia will host the Aviation World’s Fair April 7 –27, 2003, the largest aerospace event of its kind in history;

THEREFORE, let it be known that I Mark R. Warner, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, does hereby declare 2003 to be the ‘Year of Aviation In Virginia’ and hereby encourage all citizens and agencies of the Commonwealth join together in the celebration of the great achievements of flight and the proud heritage of aviation in Virginia.