



Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport

PLANE TALK News

DECEMBER 2016

www.FlyGPT.com

CEREMONY HELD TO HONOR COL. LAWRENCE E. ROBERTS

A ceremony was held in July at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport to unveil a bust memorializing the life and service of Colonel Lawrence E. Roberts.

The bust is displayed in the Gulfport airport terminal alongside the busts of Colonel John C. Robinson and Lieutenant Jeremiah J. O'Keefe. Robinson was a resident of Gulfport and is noted as one of the first African American pilots in Mississippi. O'Keefe was an ace pilot in World War II.

Roberts began his military career in the Army Air Corps as a pre-aviation cadet. His first assignment was to the Tuskegee Airmen program. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the United States Air Force. Roberts was a founding Board member of the John C. Robinson Brown Condor Association.

Roberts' bust was commissioned by his children: Lawrence E. Roberts II of Houston, Texas; Sally-Ann Roberts of New Orleans, Louisiana; Dorothy Roberts of Pass Christian, Mississippi; and Robin Roberts of New York City, New York at the request of the John C. Robinson Brown Condor Association. Ken and Mary Ott Davidson of Saucier, Mississippi are the sculptors.

Ceremony attendees and participants included members of Roberts' family, officials from Keesler Air Force Base, various city officials, Lawrence Roberts Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen and the John C. Robinson Brown Condor Association.





RIBBON CUTTING HELD FOR NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED T-HANGARS

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport held a ribbon cutting ceremony in September to celebrate the completed construction of an eight-bay T-Hangar building for small, private aircraft.

The hangar is located in the general aviation area of the Gulfport-Biloxi airport. Mississippi Department of Transportation paid for \$250,000 of the half million dollar project through its multi-modal program.

Airport Executive Director Clay Williams said while the new hangars will benefit general aviation, they will also provide a boost for the airport itself.

"We were pleased to have the opportunity to construct this infrastructure," Williams said. "It brings more traffic in and out of the airport, more people buying fuel, and more takeoffs and landings at Gulfport-Biloxi International."

The 9,000 square foot hangar facility is open for leasing. Hangar spaces range in size from 1,100 to 1,500 square feet.





SITE RECEIVES PROJECT READY DESIGNATION



A 241-acre site owned by the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport was recently designated "Project Ready" through the Mississippi Power site certification program.

Conveniently located three miles from the Port of Gulfport and Interstate 10, the site is adjacent to the airport and includes runway access.

"Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport is pleased to have a Project Ready certified site adjacent to its airfield and centrally located along the aerospace corridor making it an advantageous location for aerospace and aviation-related developments," said Clay Williams, Executive Director of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

The Project Ready Certified Site Program includes sites for new manufacturing, warehouse/distribution facilities, and high technology industries in Southeast Mississippi. If all utilities are not already at a Project Ready site, then plans have been developed and include costs and timelines. Site owners or managers have done all of the pre-work to tell an industry exactly what it will take, what it will cost and how long it will take to move their facilities to that site.

The airport is currently working with the Harrison County Development Commission to promote the site to prospective developers.



AIRPORT AWARDED \$3.4 MILLION GRANT FOR SOUND MITIGATION



The airport was awarded a \$3.4 million grant from the Federal Aviation Administration in July to fund Phase 10 of the Noise Compatibility Program. The sound mitigation program provides funding for qualified properties which fall within the FAA's pre-established sound contours.

Eligible applicants for the program have the opportunity to receive financial assistance to sound proof their residences through the installation of new windows, doors, insulation or in some cases HVAC units. Qualified homeowners may also qualify for the program through an aviation easement acquisition.

The program has been ongoing since late 2005 and 634 homes and 18 apartments have been insulated through the program. To date, 375 residential parcels have had easements recorded.



SEASONAL SERVICE TO/FROM MINNEAPOLIS RETURNS TO GULFPORT-BILOXI

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport welcomed the return of non-stop service to/from Minneapolis, Minnesota in September.

The seasonal service, offered by Sun Country airlines, ran through mid-December. Passengers from the first flight of the season were greeted with gift bags by airport staff.



NEW ROUNDABOUT ON AIRPORT ROAD

The construction of a new roundabout was recently completed on Airport Road in Gulfport. The roundabout features airport-branded welcome signage, and was made possible through a partnership between the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport and the City of Gulfport.



MAKE-A-WISH GRANTS SPECIAL SURPRISE AT AIRPORT

Three-year-old Soniya Rainey was diagnosed with terminal cancer just over a year ago. In October, the Make-A-Wish Foundation got word of Soniya's condition and worked behind the scenes to provide an all-expenses-paid, week-long Disney World vacation.

Soniya's friends and family, volunteers and Board members of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and airport staff greeted Soniya with poster-boards and gifts at the airport.



AIRPORT PARTICIPATES IN PATHWAYS 2 POSSIBILITIES



The airport hosted a learning station at Pathways 2 Possibilities in November to increase awareness among eighth graders and at-risk youth ages 16-24 about careers in aviation.

At the Gulfport airport station students played simulated air traffic control games, participated in airplane-throwing contests and learned about career opportunities within the aviation industry.



Pathways 2 Possibilities is a hands-on career expo where students experience a variety of career pathways including aerospace, agriculture, engineering, finance, health, tourism, government, manufacturing, marketing and more.



Maintenance Superintendent Jimmie Hahn's 30th Anniversary at GPT



University of South Alabama Women's Volleyball team flies out of GPT



Linda from American Airlines recognized for excellent customer service



GPT team at the Gulf Coast Heart Walk



Hertz employees at GPT recognized for excellent customer service



Marshall University Women's Soccer team flies out of GPT



Coast Young Professionals event hosted by GPT



Stay Puft man visits GPT for Halloween



Operations & Maintenance Director Casey Lyons celebrates 15 years at GPT



Miss Mississippi at GPT

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Chuck Kornman, Landside Maintenance
4 years



Ricky Rushing, Operations Manager
8 years

GULFPORT-BILOXI REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Travis Lott, Jr.
Commissioner, Harrison County

Joe Spraggins
Commissioner, City of Gulfport

Clark Griffith
Commissioner, City of Biloxi

Clay Williams
Executive Director

Jim Foster, A.A.E.
Assistant Executive Director

Don Shepley
Director of Planning & Business Development

Casey Lyons
Director of Operations & Maintenance

Stephen Oberlies
Director of Finance

Teckie Hinkebein
Director of Marketing



Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport

14035 Airport Road; Gulfport, MS 39503

A map of the United States highlighting flight routes from Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. Dashed lines connect the airport to four major cities: Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, Atlanta, and Charlotte. The map also features logos for American Airlines, Delta, SkyTeam, and United.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

HOUSTON

ATLANTA

CHARLOTTE

American Airlines

DELTA

UNITED

 **Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport**

www.FlyGPT.com