



THE WRIGHT FLYER

Aviation Trail, Inc.

Spring 2015

ATI's 2015 Trailblazer to Sinclair's Aviation Technology Department

Sinclair Community College's Aviation Technology Department is the recipient of Aviation Trail's 2015 Trailblazer Award to be presented Wednesday, April 15, in Dayton.

Held annually to honor an organization or individual who has advanced aviation in the Miami Valley, the award dinner this year will be held at the Sinclair Conference Center, Bldg. 12, on Perry Street.

"In this 32nd year of the award, we thought it appropriate to hold the presentation dinner on the college's own turf and look forward to having some of the aviation students, as well as faculty, attend," ATI President Marvin Christian said.

The social will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:45. Tickets are \$50 a person; \$35 for Sinclair students. Your check should be received no later than Friday, April 10, at Aviation Trail Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio, 45409. Indicate your choice of beef, chicken or a vegetarian meal.

As is customary, the Trailblazer Award will be presented by the previous year's recipient, John Bosch, chairman and CEO of Commander Aero Inc. at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport.

Sinclair Community College is the only community college in the state—and one of the few in the nation—with an aviation department that provides dispatcher, flight attendant, aircraft mechanic, unmanned aerial systems, and professional pilot training. The department was founded in 1999 and its Chairman is Clay Pittman.

The school itself, is named for David A. Sinclair, secretary of Dayton's YMCA from 1887-1902 who founded an adult training school. Today it has several campuses in the area and a multitude of course offerings.

Since 2004 over 2,400 pilots, mechanics, dispatchers, and flight attendants have graduated from Sinclair's aviation program. Those graduates now work for PSA, ABX Air, Net Jets, Aviation Sales, Inc.



Sinclair Community College

and many other businesses in the area and beyond. Its dispatcher graduates alone have a nearly 95 percent employment rate.

With a \$350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Sinclair has developed a curriculum to teach future aviation technicians maintenance procedures for aviation diesel engines which do not burn leaded fuel.

And the department was among the first in the nation to offer short-term certificates in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for precision agriculture, geographic information systems and first responders. Its assets for that effort include simulators and vehicles and it has begun construction of an indoor UAS flying pavilion.

Community oriented, the department promotes aviation outreach through tours on campus and at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport and the faculty, staff and students have been involved with numerous educational programs including STEM, for science technology, engineering and mathematics training.

Aviation Trail's annual Trailblazer marks the birthday of Wilbur Wright, April 16, 1867, in Eastern Indiana.

A complete list of awardees is at its website www.aviationtrailinc.org. Click on Learn More.

ATI FOUNDING MEMBER MARY ANN JOHNSON AND HUSBAND RICH JOHNSON

Mary Ann (Bohlander) Johnson, founding member of Aviation Trail, Inc., book author, and aviation historian died this past Jan. 23 in Dayton.

Her beloved husband Rich Johnson had preceded her in death on Dec. 25, 2014. They had celebrated their 70 wedding anniversary Oct. 28, 2014.

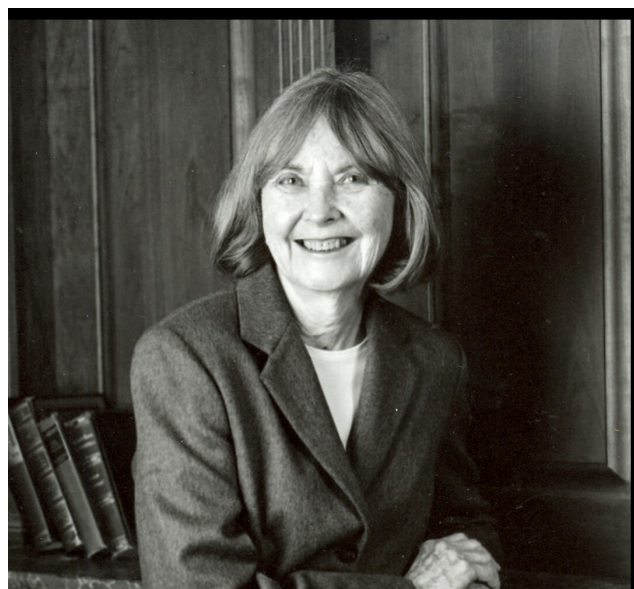
A member of ATI's Board of Trustees from 1981 to 2014, she became a Trustee Emeritus on Nov. 12, 2014. In 2008 ATI awarded Mary Ann its Trailblazer award for supporting aviation-related projects in the Dayton-Miami Valley and especially cited her two aviation-related books: *A Field Guide to Flight: On the Aviation Trail in Dayton, Ohio* and *McCook Field 1917-1927: The Force Behind America's Golden Age of Flight*—both published by Landfall Press of Dayton, Ohio..

Mary Ann also authored two histories on the Aviation Trail organization and wrote and edited its informational brochure which she updated several times, always with great accuracy and attention to details.. For many years she served as secretary on the Board.

Mary Ann was a recognized authority on local aviation history and was instrumental in development of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park which involved saving and restoring a Wright brothers bicycle shop still standing in West Dayton.

A native Daytonian, and graduate of Steele High School, she earned her bachelor's degree from Miami University where she met her husband Rich. After raising their four children—three boys and a girl--she obtained a master's degree in economics in 1976 and worked for several governmental and non-profit organizations. She also taught economics for five years at Sinclair Community College in Dayton. While working with the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission she became interested in the Aviation Trail project to identify places in Dayton related to early aviation, especially the Wright brothers.

Rich Johnson was born in East Liverpool, Ohio, moved as a young child to Cleveland, Ohio, and met his future wife at Miami University. During World War II he served with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater, then earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University. Mary Ann and Rich moved to Dayton in 1957 and for the next 34 years he was professor of management at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB.



Rich spoke and taught throughout the United States and other countries and after his retirement made presentations on local history and natural history, including narrated tours in Woodland Cemetery. He was a member of the Barn Gang at the Engineers Club of Dayton where the family celebrated many holidays.

Services for both Mary Ann and Rich were conducted by their children at Tobias Funeral Home, with internment in Woodland Cemetery.

JIM CUSTER ESTATE BEQUEATHS \$5,000 TO AVIATION TRAIL, INC.

Jim Luzern Custer, who died Feb. 3, 2011, in Dayton and was a long-time ATI supporter and member of the Board of Trustees since the 1980s, has left \$5,000 to the organization.

While not a founding member of the organization, Custer retained his aviation enthusiasm throughout his ATI association and supported many of its activities, including the speakers' bureau.

The son of well-known inventor and adventurer Lucern Custer who invented the Custer Car-- a motorized wheelchair for veterans—and aviation instruments for balloonists, Jim Custer inherited his father's interest in things of the air.

Custer had retired from Monarch Marking as vice president of Marketing and served in the military during World War II and the Korean War. His many memberships included the Dayton Engineers Club, Engineering & Science Hall of Fame in Dayton, and Wright "B" Flyer.

His funeral services were in Dayton at Southminster Presbyterian Church and he was interred in Woodland Cemetery.

AVIATION TRAIL, INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO DONATE ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS TO WSU

The Aviation Trail, Inc. Board of Trustees voted in January to establish an archive of its retired files at Wright State University, Special Collections and Archives.

In a follow-up decision at its March meeting, the board committed to the estimated dollar amount, about \$5,000, for the WSU work and voted to use the money bequeathed to ATI from the Jim Custer estate for the WSU project. (see Custer story.)

While the donation had been discussed previously, the board decided that with the acquisition of Mary Ann Johnson's extensive ATI collection that stretches back to the founding of the group, it was time to establish a formal collection of its history.

At the WSU Archives, professional archivists and curators will care for and preserve ATI's historically significant documents in an environmentally secure area while allowing access to the documents by both ATI and the general public.

The records include original letters, minutes of ATI Board of Trustee meetings, reports, photographs, publications, financial records and other documents that volunteers—ATI is an all-volunteer organization—have produced and compiled over the years. The documents are a valuable asset to the history of the aviation activities in the greater Dayton area.

Dawne Dewey, head of Special Collections and Archives, will oversee the organization of ATI's records and estimates that the work will take approximately six months. Selected records may be put on line for access by a wide range of persons interested in aviation heritage in the Miami Valley.

Dewey said, "We are pleased to have the collection in our repository which is already rich in aviation history. In addition to the most extensive Wright Brothers Collection in the world, we house hundreds of other aviation history collections, including the Dave Gold Parachute Collection already placed here by ATI. The history of Aviation Trail, Inc. is an important part of the history of Dayton. The collection documents ATI's decades-long effort to preserve and promote the aviation history of the Miami Valley."

For more information on the WSU Archives go to WWW.libraries.wright.edu/special. For Aviation Trail, go to www.aviationtrailinc.org.



The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum Committee pause from one of their meetings in the museum to anticipate the United States Parachute Association's annual safety day, March 14. The group meets regularly to discuss and execute museum issues and recently revised the museum's informational brochure, with Ann Ingoldsby as editor. From left to right, Steve Brown; Ann Ingoldsby; Randy Zuercher, museum curator; and Andrew Kididis. Not shown are committee members Roger McClure and Ed Roach. To request copies of the new brochure for yourself or visiting groups, contact Ann at

ringoldsby@woh.rr.com or go to the Aviation Trail web site www.aviationtrailinc.org and scroll to the bottom of the first page.

NMUSAF TO CLOSE "REMOTE" GALLERY OCT 1

In preparation for the move to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force's new fourth building, the Presidential and Research & Development Galleries, currently located on the controlled-access portion of Wright-Patterson AFB, will close beginning Oct. 1.

The aircraft and exhibits in those galleries will re-open as part of the fourth building in the main museum in spring 2016. Currently the fourth structure is more than half completed.

The closure will allow the museum's restoration staff to prepare for the move by completing a number of requirements in the current galleries, such as removing planes suspended from the ceiling, changing and inflating tires, and cleaning and polishing the aircraft so they will be ready to begin relocating to the 224,000-square-foot fourth building later this year.

Moving the Presidential and R & D Galleries to the fourth building will allow all visitors the opportunity to view two of the museum's most popular exhibits including the VC-137C Air Force One (SAM 2600), which was used by eight presidents—Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Clinton, and the world's only remaining XB-70 Valkyrie.

WRIGHT FACTORY TOURS ARE UNDERWAY



Aerial picture of the Wright Factory taken by drone piloted by Andy Snow.

Photo courtesy of Andy Snow

In this aerial view you see America's first airplane factory, which was located in West Dayton off Third Street. The original 1910-11 Wight Company structures are Bldgs. Nos. 1 and 2 to the far left. Bldgs. 3-5—and the square building on the far left--were added later by the Inland Manufacturing Division of General Motors. Plans are underway for Bldg. 3 to become the construction site for the new Wright "B" Flyer under the auspices of the Wright "B" Flyer Inc. with support from the Experimental Aircraft Association. This historic property, now owned by Home Avenue Redevelopment LLC, is envisioned for historical preservation and industrial redevelopment, and the National Aviation Heritage Area has permission for monthly tours of the buildings; see tour details below.



THE GREAT SHOE JUMP

Editor's Note:

Ann Ingoldsby, a member of the ATI Board of Trustees, is an accomplished skydiver. We thought you'd enjoy her narrative about losing—and not losing—objects in the sky.

Everyone has lost something now and again. A sock, an earring, a dog, a heart. Sometimes things are found as easily. A dollar in the laundry, that favorite pen, a homeless beagle.

I used to blame it on poltergeists and a mischievous husband. As age rolls in I hesitate to blame anything else.

But now the blame can be laid on the winds...at 10,000 feet.

An early leap from a plane ripped my goggles away, taking in tandem my glasses. Falling at terminal velocity they were buried quite snugly in the [soy] beans...somewhere.

On my first flight in the DC-3, my mind saw the helmet drop out the door as I placed it between my legs preparing my goggles. Sure as shootin', there it went, rolling out to meet my glasses...somewhere.

On a group dive, gripping securely to each others' hands, we suddenly pulled apart. Bidding adieu to my new Isotoner, I floated under canopy following it in circles until it disappeared in the beans...somewhere.

The great shoe jump, it was noted in the logbook, was quite a feat...for a shoe. A daredevil friend joined me in a horny gorilla, entwining our legs together upside down, falling in an ever increasing twirl. Centrifugal force lured my shoe away, and, I thought, off to visit the beans. But turning to check on my partner, I caught a glimpse of him waving hello with my shoe. Caught between his legs, the shoe never had a chance to dance in the beans.

Losing things in the air is quite the norm for skydivers. An altimeter, a free bag, even a parachute, treasures often retrieved from the bean fairies by spring plowing.

But then there are the cutaway handles and reserve rings that remind us of the ever present, real danger...somewhere in the beans.

P.S. Where are my sunglasses?

TOUR INFORMATION

The next free tour of the Wright Factory buildings will be April 23, 2015. Since there is no heat or electricity in the building, visitors are advised to dress accordingly, wear closed-toe shoes, and bring a flashlight. The plant entrance is on the south side of West Third Street just east of Abbey Avenue. Coming from I-75 go west on U.S. 35 to Abbey, turn right onto Abbey, right onto West Third Street and right into the entrance. For more information, contact NAHA at info@aviationheritagearea.org.



Michael Heil Ph.D., left, and ATI President Marvin Christian after the Dec. 17 celebration at the Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight. Heil, who was principal speaker at the event, is president and CEO of NASA's Ohio Aerospace Institute based in Cleveland, Ohio. His talk, "Ohio, the Aerospace State," was preceded by mini briefings by representatives of local aviation-focused organization. Before he was appointed to his current position in January 2007, Heil had several assignments to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base during his military career.



USAF "THUNDERBIRDS" RETURN TO VECTREN DAYTON AIR SHOW

The U.S. Air Force aerobatic team the "Thunderbirds" will headline the Vectren Dayton Air Show this summer June 20-21 at the Dayton International Airport.

Officially called the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the group, based at Nellis AFB, Nev., is commanded by Lt. Col. Christopher Hammond, who flies the No. 1 F-16 jet. Advance tickets go on sale May 11 at reduced prices at area Kroger stores and the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

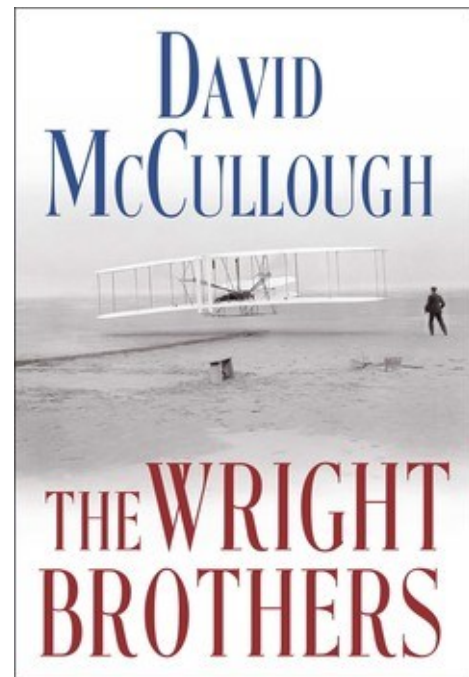
This is the 62nd year of performance for the Thunderbirds and the group will present 71 demonstrations at 39 locations. For more information, go to www.daytonairshow.com and www.afthunderbirds.com.

MCCULLOUGH BOOK ON THE WRIGHT BROTHERS TO DEBUT MAY 5

Acclaimed historian David McCullough's book *The Wright Brothers*, published by Simon and Schuster, debuts in hard cover May 5.

McCullough, in fact, was in Dayton, home of the brothers whom he chronicled, in fall 2014 visiting sites related to Orville and Wilbur Wright and their legacy. His researcher Mike Hill visited several times and was assisted by the Dayton Metro Library researchers.

McCullough, who has received the Pulitzer Prize for his books *Truman* and *John Adams*, has earned a plethora of awards over his career capped with the 2006 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. His other awards include two Francis Parkman prizes, the Los Angeles Times Book Award and the New York Public Library's Literary Lion Award.



Among his book awards are the National Book Award for *Path Between the Seas* about the building of the Panama Canal and *Mornings on Horseback*, which spans 17 years in the life of Theodore Roosevelt. His first book was *The Johnstown Flood*.

McCullough is revered for his accurate historical narratives although as a very young man he toyed with several career options. A native of Pittsburgh, Penna., he earned his bachelor of arts degree in English literature from Yale University, moved to New York City and his first writing job was on *Sports Illustrated* magazine.

His illustrious career includes narrating many television shows and documentaries including Ken Burns' *The Civil War*, the 2003 film "Seabiscuit," and hosting PBS's *American Experience* from 1988-1999. He and his wife Rosalee reside in Boston; they have five children and 18 grandchildren.

McCullough's *The Wright Brothers* will be available at area bookstores and at airport bookstores.

NAHF ENSHRINEES SELECTED FOR 2015 INDUCTION

The National Aviation Hall of Fame has released the names of four aviation pioneers to be inducted into its 2015 Hall of Fame. They include pioneers in propeller development, supersonic flight, and man's exploration of space.

The Oct. 2, 2015, induction ceremonies are scheduled for the NAHF Learning Center adjacent to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Those to be inducted are:

Brig. Gen. Robert L Cardenas (USAF Ret.), pilot and test pilot, who was assigned to the record-breaking X-1 and XB-49 programs and commanded an F-105 combat wing and Air Force Special Operations Force

Robert N. Hartzell, posthumously, propeller manufacturer inspired by Orville Wright and manufacturer of wood propellers for the "Liberty" engines in World War I and metal propellers in World War II. Later propeller development spurred worldwide development of the general aviation industry. Hartzell Propeller Inc. is located in Piqua, Ohio.

Eugene "Gene" Kranz, fighter pilot in Korea, who joined NASA's Space Flight Group in 1960 and worked flight operations through Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and the Shuttle programs. He was flight director during Apollo 13 and as NASA director of Mission Operations was responsible for more than 6,000 employees and a \$700 million budget, and

Abe Silverstein, posthumously, mechanical engineer and aerodynamicist for World War II and early supersonic aircraft, Silverstein transitioned from NACA to NASA in 1958 and became its first director of the Office of Space Flight Programs. He is credited as an architect of the space program and "Father of Apollo" and other planet exploration.

KIDS' CORNER

Looking for something to do this summer? Check out the Learning Center at the WACO Air Museum in Troy, Ohio. Go to www.wacoairmuseum.org and under Learning Center you'll find a list of activities designed to foster science, technology, engineering, and math. WACO's programs demonstrate the principles of flight and engage participants in making and flying hot air balloons, kites, model airplanes, paper rockets, hovercraft, Estes rockets, and more. Or, call 513.335.9226 for details about the summer programs.

WW I ARTIST HENRI FARRE EXHIBIT ONGOING AT NMUSAF

During this 100th anniversary of World War I, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force opened an art exhibit last September by Henri Farre, who served as an observer-bombardier in the French Air Service during World War I.

Titled "Sky Fighters in France: World War I Aviation Art of Henri Farre," the exhibit features more than 30 paintings that capture the danger and immediacy of aerial warfare. Farre painted from the aviator's point of view—an innovation in aviation art of the time.

The free exhibit is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the museum's Hall of Honor through Sept. 7, 2015.



Painting entitled, "Caudron Aeroplane Directing Artillery Fire between the Argonne and Verdun."

NATIONAL PARK CENTERS RESUME NORMAL OPERATING HOURS

The National Park Service reminds you that as of March 1 it has resumed normal operating hours at its two local interpretive centers: Wright-Dunbar (including the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum) on Williams Street and Huffman Prairie Flying Field in Area B of Wright-Patterson. Those are now open seven days a week—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information call the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park: 937.225.7705.

F-4 AIRCRAFT DEDICATED IN KITTINGER PARK, FLORIDA

In Colonel Joe Kittinger Park in Central Florida (Orlando) on Dec. 14, a ceremony dedicated an F-4D Phantom II static display aircraft to all Vietnam veterans of Central Florida. Three hundred fifty Central Floridians lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

The ceremony's opening and closing remarks were by Kittinger, a Tampa native, who flew 483 combat missions in F-4s while in Vietnam from 1971-72, including four over North Vietnam while he was commander of the 555 "Triple Nickel" Squadron at Udorn, Thailand (1971-72).

On the F-4 dedication program is a quote from Kittinger: "This plane will provide a vivid reminder that we must never forget the 350 Central Floridians who gave their lives in the Vietnam conflict." Kittinger nearly became one of the casualties when he was shot down in May of 1972 and spent 11 months as a prisoner of war in the "Hanoi Hilton."

Long before his Vietnam assignments, however, Kittinger made his mark while assigned to an endeavor on the very early U.S. space program. After university graduation (University of Florida) and a tour as fighter pilot in Germany Kittinger flew experimental jets fighters and participated in aerospace medical research—first at Holloman AFB and then at Wright-Patterson AFB at the Aerospace Medical Laboratory.

Kittinger participated in the Man High One and Excelsior experiments to test whether man could go into space. On Aug. 16, 1960, on Excelsior III Kittinger made his famous "leap into space" from a balloon at 102,888 feet over New Mexico and began a 4-minute 36-second free fall before his parachute opened at 12,000 feet.

His final Air Force assignments were at RAF Lakenheath, England, where he flew F-4s with the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing (1975-77) and his final tour of duty was as vice wing commander of that fighter unit.

After retiring as a colonel, Kittinger worked for Martin Marietta Corp. and became associated with Rosie O'Grady's Flying Circus in Orlando. His interest in ballooning never waned, however, and he made the first solo Atlantic crossing in a 106,000 cubic foot *Balloon of Peace* in September 1984—an official aerospace record for his type of balloon.

During his career Kittinger was awarded numerous medals including the silver star, two purple hearts, 24 Air Medals and six Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Harmon Trophy presented by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. His books include *The Long, Lonely Leap* in 1961, and *Come Up and Get Me* in 2010.

During the Vietnam War (1961-73) more than 2.7 million American servicemen and women served and 58,148 lost their lives. There the F-4 was the primary fighter aircraft used by the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marines. It provided ground support and escort for other aircraft and destroyed targets in North and South Vietnam and Laos.

More recently two persons have exceeded Kittinger's "leap from space" and Kittinger was a member of the first team to break his record: the Red Bull Stratos ascent in 2012 by Felix Baumgartner. Kittinger spoke of that record-setting ascent in 2013 at Aviation Trail's celebration of the first flight by Orville and Wilbur Wright.

An interactive exhibit on the Kittinger balloon ascent is in the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum.



At the F-4 dedication in Florida in December were, l. to r., Roger and Carol McClure and Col. Joe Kittinger (USAF Ret.) The park was named for Kittinger in 1992.

Photo courtesy of Roger McClure

DAYTON HISTORY NOW OPERATING THE NAHF LEARNING CENTER

On Jan. 1 Dayton History began operational management of the National Aviation Hall of Fame's (HOF) Learning Center adjacent to the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Dedicated to informing the public of the great accomplishments of the HOF enshrinees, and aviation history, the center has seven major sections: enshrinee lab, early flight, World War I, Golden Age of Flight, World War II, jet age, and into space.

Those sections cover 14,500 feet of exhibit space that features displays, flight simulators, and interactive exhibits to honor the 225 enshrinees who have been inducted since 1962 when President Lyndon Johnson signed an act of Congress that gave the NAHF a national charter.

The new agreement includes Dayton History's integrating of the NAHF volunteers into its volunteer association, providing a full-time Education Department staff member, and enhancing the historical interpretation and education programming within the center.

Activities remaining under the direction of the Hall of Fame's board of trustees are its various annual award and outreach activities—including its enshrinement selection process and ceremonies—public events at the Reno Air Races, Oshkosh, and NBAA convention, and other educational programs.

The non-profit NAHF's mission statement "honoring aerospace legends to inspire future leaders" clearly states the goals of the organization and underlies its strong educational element.

Dayton History is Montgomery County's official historical organization with multiple campuses in the greater Dayton area: Carillon Historical Park, Hawthorn Hill, the Paul Laurence Dunbar House Historic Site, the Patterson Homestead, the Old Court House, Memorial Hall and the Archive Center. Its web site is www.nationalaviation.org.



Spring 2015

www.aviationtrailinc.org

AVIATION TRAIL, INC.
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Wright Brothers Branch
Dayton, OH 45409
Phone: 937.443.0793



REMINDER

April 15th —Trailblazer Award Dinner—Aviation Trail must have your reservation for the Trailblazer Dinner by Friday, April 10. Mail your check and reservation card—with food choices—to Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409. The dinner is Wednesday, April 15, at the Banquet Center, Sinclair Community College. Use the Perry Street parking garage and you will be given a voucher for parking when you pick up your name tag at the event. The social begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 6:45. Don't miss this opportunity to honor Sinclair's Aviation Technology Department, recipient of the 2015 Trailblazer Award.

AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of Aviation Trail, Inc., at the following level:

___ Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15	___ Contributing \$50	___ Individual Life \$500
___ Individual \$20	___ Supporting \$100	(May be paid in five annual
___ Family \$30	___ Patron \$1,000/year	installments of \$100 each)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make check payable to: **AVIATION TRAIL, INC.** and mail it together with this form to:

Aviation Trail, Inc., P. O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409