

Office of the Mayor
Columbus, Mississippi

Proclamation
**GENERAL AVIATION
APPRECIATION MONTH
2016**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus in the state of Mississippi has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aviation educational institutions, aviation organizations and community airports; and

WHEREAS, general aviation and Columbus-Lowndes County Airport have an immense economic impact on the City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is home to 66 public-use general aviation airports, which serve 4,126 pilots and 2,037 active general aviation aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is home to 61 fixed-based operators, 22 repair stations, 250 heliports, 5 FAA-approved pilot schools, 1,031 flight students and 653 flight instructors; and

WHEREAS, general aviation in Mississippi contributes over \$488 million to the state's economy each year; and

WHEREAS, general aviation not only supports Mississippi's economy, it improves overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and healthcare services, law enforcement, firefighting and disaster relief, and by transporting business travelers to their destinations quickly and safely; and

WHEREAS, the nation's aviation infrastructure represents an important public benefit, and Congressional oversight should be in place to ensure stable funding of this system;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Robert E. Smith, Mayor of the City of Columbus, do hereby proclaim general aviation a vital strategic resource to the City of Columbus and declare February as

GENERAL AVIATION APPRECIATION MONTH

in the City of Columbus.

*In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the seal of this city to be affixed*

Mayor Robert E. Smith, Jr.

Date: February 16, 2016

