



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

General Aviation Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, general aviation and community airports play a critical role in the lives of our citizens, businesses, and farms; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aerospace, aircraft manufacturing, educational institutions, aviation organizations, community airports and airport operators; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Rhode Island Airport Economic Impact Study found that general aviation airports in Rhode Island contribute approximately \$214 million, or \$203 per capita, to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has seven public-use airports, serving 1,037 pilots and 350 active general aviation aircrafts; and

WHEREAS, general aviation airports support 1,476 jobs across the state; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is home to five repair stations, three FAA-approved flight schools and seven fixed base operators in the state; and

WHEREAS, general aviation plays a vital role in the state's response to emergencies and natural disasters, rescue operations such as air ambulance transports by fixed wing and rotor craft, in addition to police, warden, and mail service that routinely utilize general aviation to support daily operations and communication; and

WHEREAS, general aviation not only supports Rhode Island's economy, it improves overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and healthcare services, law-enforcement, firefighting, disaster relief; 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, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim March 2016, as: *General Aviation Appreciation Month* in the state and encourage all citizens to recognize the vital strategic resource that aviation is in Rhode Island.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 14 day of March, 2016

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State