



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Experience the Birthplace of Aviation!

A non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region

Visit the historical sites that tell of man's conquest of the air.

"The Flight Log" - **AVIATION TRAIL MAIL**

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December 26, 2017

This "Flight Log" highlights some of the stories and recent events featured on the Aviation Trail website: AviationTrailInc.org



Above: Aviation Trail Visitor Center • Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center • Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
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Trailblazer Award and Anniversary of the First Powered Flight

One evening = Two Celebrations!

**114th Anniversary of Powered Flight
100th Anniversary of McCook Field**



Each year Aviation Trail hosts a dinner in celebration of the anniversary of the first powered flight. This year, on **Saturday, December 16**, the First Flight event honoring the 114th anniversary of the Wilbur and Orville Wright's 1903 achievement, was held at the Hope Hotel, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.



Lt. Gen. Robert D. McMurry Jr., Commander of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (left) receives the Trailblazer Award from ATI Trustee Paul Woodruff (right).



Maj. Gen. William T. Cooley, Commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory (left) receives the Trailblazer Award from ATI Parachute Museum Curator Randy Zuercher.



Trailblazer Award

Also at the event, in honor of the 100th anniversary of McCook Field, the 2017 Trailblazer Award was presented to the two "descendants" of McCook Field, the **Air Force Life Cycle Management Center** and the **Air Force Research Laboratory**. This award, given annually since 1983, goes to an individual or organization that has furthered aviation in the greater Miami Valley.



McCook Field was an airfield and aviation experimentation station in Dayton, Ohio, operated by the Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps, and its successor the United States Army Air Service from 1917 to 1927. It was named for Alexander McDowell McCook, an American Civil War general and his brothers and cousins, who were collectively known as "The Fighting McCooks." A huge sign painted across the front of McCook's main hangar prominently warned arriving pilots: **THIS FIELD IS SMALL - USE IT ALL.**

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...First Flight and Trailblazer, continued

With the 2017 Trailblazer Award going to the WPAFB units that had their beginnings at McCook Field, it was fitting that the feature presentation was entitled "**The Engineering Division of McCook Field**". This was presented by **Jorge Gonzalez**, a member of the government's Senior Executive Service, and Director, Engineering and Technical Management Directorate, Air Force Life Management Center, WPAFB. Mr. Gonzalez treated the group to a fascinating review of the history of McCook Field. This included reference not only to the many significant achievements during the ten year existence of the field, but also to the ongoing contributions and scope of operations at WPAFB that have continued the mission of the McCook Field Engineering Division.



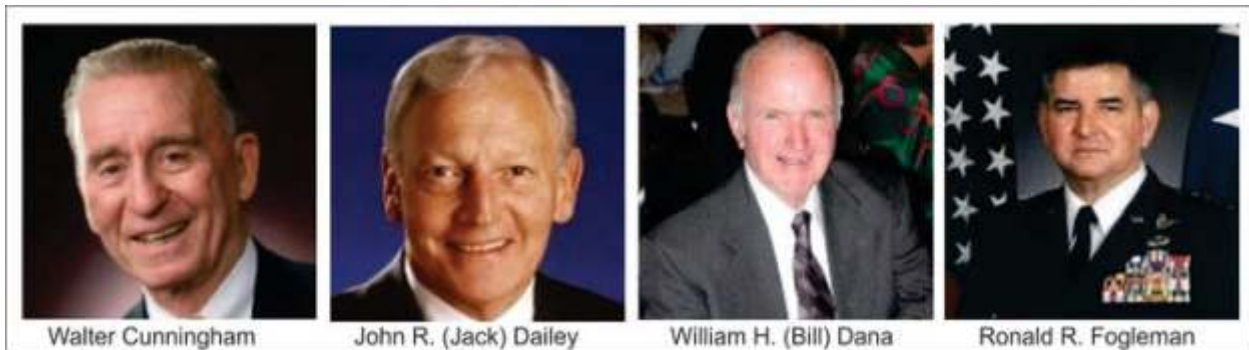
Featured speaker, Jorge Gonzalez

Go to the Aviation Trail website for more photos from the event, and for more information on McCook Field, and its accomplishments, with this link: <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/december-17-2017>.



National Aviation Hall of Fame Reveals "Class of 2018"

The National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) announced the four individuals who have been elected for its 2018 Enshrinement Dinner & Ceremony. Executive Board Member Dr. Kathy Hughes and Executive Director Amy Spowart revealed the names before an audience of nearly 300 attendees at the fall awards dinner of the National Aeronautic Association in Washington, D.C. Each year, the NAHF Board of Nominations, a voting body comprised of over 120 aviation professionals nationwide, selects a handful of previously-nominated air and space pioneers to be recognized for their achievements with induction into the NAHF. Since its founding in 1962, 237 men and women have been honored with enshrinement into the Congressionally-chartered 501(c)(3). The NAHF Class of 2018 is a diverse group representing a broad range of enduring contributions to both the advancement of flight and the manned exploration of space: National Aviation Hall of Fame Reveals "Class of 2018".



Colonel Walter Cunningham, USMCR (Ret) is a decorated Korean War veteran, fighter pilot, physicist, Apollo 7 Lunar Module Pilot and SKYLAB Chief.

General John R. (Jack) Dailey, USMC (Ret) is a decorated Vietnam veteran, Former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Chief of Staff, Former Deputy Administrator of NASA and the acting Director of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

(The late) **William H. (Bill) Dana** was a 40 year veteran of NASA, test pilot and aeronautical engineer. He was also the project pilot for the X-15 and pilot astronaut for the X-20, among several other aircraft.

General Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF (Ret) is a United States Air Force Academy graduate, decorated Vietnam veteran (logging 80 missions as a Misty), Command Pilot and Parachutist, 15th Chief of Staff of the Air Force and author of the Air Force Core Values.

The NAHF was founded in Dayton in 1962 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1964. Its mission is to honor America's aerospace legends to inspire future leaders, which it does through a 17,000 square-foot public Learning Center featuring interactive exhibits, a youth education program, other public outreach programs, its annual enshrinement ceremony and collaboration with like-minded organizations.

For more information on the National Aviation Hall of Fame see www.nationalaviation.org



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* Donations will be designated to promote and preserve historical aviation sites in the Dayton Region.

** Donations will be designated to promote and preserve the "Wilbear Wright" teddy bear program that promotes the Aviation Trail and its partner sites.

Online credit card payments may be made from our website at www.aviationtrailinc.org.

Select the "Memberships-Donations-Reservations button from the top menu. Secure payments are made through PayPal.

Donations to Aviation Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region, are fully tax deductible.

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