



## **General Aviation Valued in West Virginia**

West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin has recently signed a [proclamation](#) declaring October 2012 as "General Aviation Appreciation Month" across the state. Highlighting the industry's "critical role in the lives of our citizens, business communities and the state of West Virginia," the governor acknowledged general aviation's contributions to the state's people, movement of products and services and communication between rural communities across the vast state. In 2012, then Governor Joe Manchin III also recognized general aviation's vitality to West Virginians and their businesses.

"A great many businesses and communities depend on GA aircraft and small aircraft of all types for access to medical treatment, mobility, economic opportunity, disaster relief and a wide range of critical resources," the proclamation states. West Virginia is home to 35 airports that service 1,916 pilots and 1,371 general aviation aircraft, according to the Alliance for Aviation Across America. The association also noted that between 2000 and 2005, aerospace employment increased by nearly 600 jobs, making it one of the fastest growing sectors of West Virginia's economy. Annually, general aviation contributes \$616 million to the state's economy.

"Governor Tomblin recognizes general aviation's central importance to farming and agriculture, just one of West Virginia's many important contributions to the nation," noted NATA President and CEO Tom Hendricks. "General aviation and the businesses it serves directly contribute to the state's economic prosperity and competitiveness, now and in the future."