



- Big Data's Best Laid Plans
- SWIM: The Big Picture
- Remembering CAP's Ambassador
- European Air Traffic Management: The German View of Current and Future Trends
- Working IT Security for the FAA
- And More



## Paul Rinaldi Named Winner of 2016 Glen A. Gilbert Memorial Award

## NATCA President to Receive ATCA's Highest Honor this October

he Air Traffic Control Association will present one of aviation's premier awards – the Glen A. Gilbert Memorial Award – to Paul Rinaldi, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA). ATCA and the aviation industry will honor Rinaldi on October 19, 2016, at the Glen A. Gilbert Memorial Banquet – a capstone to the 61st ATCA Annual. As president of NATCA, the federal labor union representing aviation safety professionals at the FAA, DoD, and within contract towers, Rinaldi has displayed an exemplary career-long commitment to the betterment of the NAS. In accepting the Glen A. Gilbert Memorial Award, Rinaldi joins aviation greats, including the Hon. Jane Garvey and the Hon. Najeeb Halaby, Capt. Elrey B. Jeppesen, former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, pilot A. Scott Crossfield, and current ATCA Chairman Neil Planzer.

## **About the Winner**

Paul Rinaldi became the sixth president of NATCA when he began his first term in October 2009. He is now in his third term, and is the first leader in NATCA's history to serve three terms as president.

Since taking office in 2009, Rinaldi and Executive Vice President Patricia Gilbert have worked as a team, along with the NATCA National Executive Board, elevating NATCA to new levels of success. NATCA's team is committed and focused on improving the working relationship between the Union, the FAA and Department of Transportation. Efforts like the Air Traffic Safety Action Program (ATSAP), fatigue mitigation, Professional Standards, and Partnership For Safety are a result of the team's focus

on progress and safety. These processes have led to collaborative decisions on important issues involving airspace, procedures, technology, staffing, and training while cementing NATCA's leadership role and voice in the aviation industry.

Rinaldi has been a legislative force for NATCA, leading the Union to many successes, such as ensuring collective bargaining for NATCA members and leading the charge to end the sequester-related furloughs of 2013. He saw his union through many tumultuous times including two federal government shutdowns (one full and one partial) and repeated attacks on federal employees that threatened NATCA members' professions and the system they safeguard.

Rinaldi has testified before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation on a host of issues, including FAA reauthorization and reform, facility consolidations and realignments, NextGen modernization, and collaboration to ensure air safety. He's also testified about air traffic control safety oversight.

Prior to being elected NATCA president, Rinaldi served three years as NATCA's executive vice president, after 16 years as an air traffic controller at Washington-Dulles Tower (IAD). Rinaldi currently holds positions on the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC), the FAA Management Advisory Council (MAC), and at the AFL-CIO 2013 Convention he was elected as a vice president on the labor federation's Executive Council. Rinaldi also serves on the RTCA Policy Board, the Board of Advisors for the Eno Center for Transportation, and as a union representative on the FAA National Labor-Management Forum, a group whose formation was mandated





Paul Rinaldi, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)

by a presidential executive order to improve labor relations within the federal government.

On May 26, 2016, Rinaldi received the prestigious 2016 Humanitarian Award from the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) at its National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala in Washington, D.C. The SIF is the philanthropic arm of the Order Sons of Italy, the nation's largest and oldest organization for people of Italian heritage.

Rinaldi is a native of Island Park, N.Y. He resides in Manassas, Va., with his wife, Debra. They have two sons, Anthony and Nicholas, and a daughter, Olivia.

## About the Glen A. Gilbert Award

The Glen A. Gilbert Memorial Award is dedicated to the memory of one of the recognized Fathers of Air Traffic Control and honors the lifelong achievements of an individual in the field of aviation. Glen Gilbert was a visionary who, along with Earl Ward, founded the US air traffic system and dedicated his professional career to its improvement.

The award trophy, donated by ATCA corporate member Raytheon Company, is inscribed with recipient names and is on permanent display in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Glen A. Gilbert Memorial Award is ATCA's most prestigious honor. The award is presented during a banquet held at the close of the ATCA Annual Conference and Exposition.

