



## House T&I Committee Passes Shutdown Insurance Bill

On Oct. 27, the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) passed H.R. 4042, the Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2021. NATCA strongly supports this important legislation which would protect NATCA's members and ensure that the

FAA could continue to meet its mission by maintaining the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System during a lapse in appropriations for up to 30 days. T&I Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore, Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Rick Larsen, D-Wash., and T&I committee members Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., and Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, provided tremendous leadership in shepherding this critical legislation through the committee. For many years, NATCA has advocated for a stable, predictable funding stream. This legislation would provide a temporary shield against destructive government shutdowns and protection for ongoing programs and projects that have to waste weeks preparing for potential shutdowns even when they are avoided at the last minute.



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## Convention Update: Supplement Containing Additional Amendments Has Been Printed, Mailed

There were additional proposed amendments and resolutions for the 18th Biennial Convention (Dec. 9-10, Houston) that were submitted in the time after the original amendments and resolutions book was printed (in advance of a then-Aug. 10-12 convention) and before the 120-days prior to a December convention deadline early last August. A supplement containing the new proposed amendments has been printed and



mailed to members' home addresses. The original book of proposed amendments and resolutions and this supplement are part of a combined package that also is available on our Union's 18th Biennial Convention resources page on NATCA's website. [Here, you also can find the National Executive Board \(NEB\) report on policies and position statements and NEB resolutions.](#)

Are you planning to join us in Houston for the Convention? Please remember that registration for the convention is a two-step process. [Step 1 is registering.](#)

Step 2 is making your hotel reservation at the Marriott Marquis Houston, [here.](#)

For more about the convention, [visit the event web page.](#)

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## Plane & Pilot Magazine Story Details ZSE Members' Flight Assist Which Earned Them 2020 Archie League Award

NATCA's 2020 Northwest Mountain Region Archie League Medal of Safety Award winners are featured in the latest issue of Plane & Pilot magazine. The



story, written by Bradley Sunshine, details how Seattle Center (ZSE) members Josh Fuller, Byron Andrews, Brian Hach, Ryan Jimenez, and Michael Sellman worked together for two hours to save Idaho Cessna 182 Skylane pilot Tim Bendickson's life in a riveting flight assist that took place on the Saturday afternoon before Thanksgiving in 2019. Writes Sunshine: "A controller's voice truly controls traffic. Instructions delivered in measured cadence denote confidence. Pilots need to trust ATC clearances. Fuller and his colleagues innately understood that radar blips moved quickly; there was no 'pause' button in this game. Sometimes directives could not be repeated. The air traffic realm was measured in seconds versus minutes. ... The frightened voice transmitting from the clouds signified time was short—an inverted hourglass with sand rushing to the bottom. 'I'm at 6,000,' he radioed. 'I'm at 7,000 feet! I just about hit another mountain! I don't know where I'm at!'" [Read the full story here.](#)

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# Disaster Response Committee Stands Ready to Assist Members Affected by Severe Weather



NATCA's Disaster Response Committee (DRC) remains a strong source of assistance for members affected by severe weather. Damaging storms affected areas of the country from coast to coast in the last couple of weeks, serving as a reminder of the DRC's value in helping members. Additionally, there's still a month left until the official end of hurricane season. Storms are rare this late in the season, but they are certainly present.

Last year, Hurricane Eta made landfall as a Category 4 storm on Nov. 2. If you're in a hurricane-prone area, the Disaster Response Committee (DRC) reminds you it's important to continue to stay prepared for hurricanes. [Read more.](#)

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## 20 Years Later, NATCA Remembers Meaningful Gesture from Pa. Students After 9/11

This month marks the 20th anniversary of a special interaction that NATCA leadership and staff had with a group of seventh and eighth graders from Hazleton, Pa., located just south of Wilkes-Barre. A few weeks after the horrific attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, then NATCA President John Carr and Executive Vice President Ruth Stilwell arrived at the National Office to find a stack of cards and letters from the West Hazleton Elementary/Middle School students thanking air traffic controllers for their efforts to close the National Airspace System and get over 4,500 aircraft on the ground safely. Teacher Cindy Fetchko wrote at the time, "As we try to make sense of the senseless tragedy, we are discussing how many heroes have emerged in our society. Our students have decided to honor the air traffic controllers for their heroism on that horrible day." Wrote one student, "I would like to thank you for doing your job so well the day of the tragedy and every day." Carr led a group of members and staff employees who traveled to Hazleton to thank the students in person in October 2001. NATCA at the time created a book featuring each of the students' notes, [which you can read here.](#)

You did a great job landing all of those planes. You all acted like veterans landing all of the plane without killing or hurting anyone else. All I can say is Thank you.

Thank you for saving all those innocent lives on September 11, 2001.

I've been keeping track of our country's great tragedy and in doing so I have come to recognize the unrecognized heroes. If it weren't for you I think our country would be mourning a much greater loss.

I'm, as well as many other people, are grateful that you and fellow Air Traffic Controllers were able to safely land every plane in the sky without a major accident. So, thank-you for a job well done, and keep up the good job.

I just wanted to say thanks for safely landing the other planes.

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