NATCA Member Featured in Newly-Opened Smithsonian ATC Exhibit

After four years of renovations, new galleries at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., have opened to the public, including an exciting new exhibit about our nation’s air traffic control system. NATCA has been one of the supporters of the museum’s transformation, and the air traffic control exhibit will inform museum visitors about U.S. aviation safety professionals and our proud history. The Air and Space Museum is one of the world’s most popular museums with more than 4.5 million visitors in 2019.

Air traffic controllers are featured in the educational air traffic exhibit, which is part of the museum’s America By Air gallery, including NATCA member Mylinka Brogdon from Atlanta Center (ZTL). Brogdon’s image, taken by ZTL retired member Jay Tilles, is prominently displayed as part of the exhibit’s video explainer of how air traffic control works.
“It is an absolute honor to be a representative of NATCA for the ‘Safety in the Skies’ exhibit in the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum,” Brogdon said. “For my beloved profession to be seen by millions is astonishing. That honor is only surpassed by the fact that I get to work with an amazing group of individuals who work tirelessly to ensure the safety of the flying public and the National Airspace System.”

NATCA Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, his wife Anna LeBovidge, and several NATCA staff members were invited to tour the newly opened museum, including the NATCA-sponsored air traffic control exhibit. About the exhibit, LeBovidge stated, “NATCA is proud to be a supporter of the Air and Space Museum and its new exhibit about air traffic control. The millions of visitors touring this museum every year will have the opportunity to learn more about the essential work we do. NATCA’s support of the museum is a part of our shared mission to spark the imagination of the next generation to lead future innovation in air and space and to pursue aviation careers.”

NATCA Scholarship Winner McKenzie Farrell’s Essay

Every year, NATCA offers a scholarship program for spouses, children,
stepchildren, and legally adopted children of active, retired, and deceased members in good standing for at least two consecutive years. This scholarship is for full-time attendance at accredited colleges and universities within the United States and its territories for an undergraduate degree program.

“A group of people will always have a louder voice than just one person.”

– 2022 NATCA Scholarship Winner McKenzie Farrell, child of Chicago Center (ZAU) member Donald Farrell

Unions empower people to negotiate together and advocate for better conditions and policies on local, state, and national levels, working to achieve a brighter future for everyone. For 2022, students were asked to write in response to the prompt: “What is the difference between a group of people advocating for a cause versus one person speaking up for something they feel strongly about?”

McKenzie Farrell, child of Donald Farrell (Chicago Center, ZAU) is among this year’s 20 winners of a $1,000 scholarship. To read the essay that McKenzie submitted, click here.

<link to full story on natca.org, content below>
Visit the NATCA Portal to view all available classes and register. Once you have logged in, select "NATCA Academy" from the quick links. Then, select "2023 Courses." If you need any help with registration, contact the coordinator for your region. Registrants will be notified within 35 days from the course start date of their status for the course.

As a reminder, class schedules are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

To learn more, click here.