NATCA Remembers and Honors Armed Service Members Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice for our Country

Memorial Day is a sacred day to remember and honor armed service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Many NATCA members are or are related to veterans. These NATCA members and millions of other Americans throughout our nation’s history have signed up for the U.S. Armed Forces, knowing they face the possibility of going to war and not coming home. The chances are good that many of us are related to, work with, or otherwise have a connection to at least one person who was lost to war. Today, our Union honors their courage and sacrifice and remembers the great personal loss that is reality for their families.

The holiday also marks the start of summer, a time for travel and adventure with friends and family. While spending time with our families this weekend, let’s take a moment to reflect gratefully on our nation’s fallen women & men and their families.

LeBovidge, Gilbert, Chappell, Weidner Represent
Members of the Women in Aviation Advisory Board (WIAAB), which includes former NATCA executive vice president Trish Gilbert, were in Washington, D.C., recently to meet with members of Congress and the aviation industry to share results of their recent report and important recommendations.

NATCA Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge represented NATCA at the WIAAB’s reception on May 17, along with Manassas ATCT (HEF) Vice President and Legislative Rep Natelie Chappell, and retired member and former National Legislative Committee chair Steve Weidner. Chappell also serves as president of the Capital Region Chapter of Women in Aviation International.

PHOTO: (left to right) Trish Gilbert, Steve Weidner, Natelie Chappell, and Andrew LeBovidge.

Read more about the WIAAB report in this recent NATCA Update news item.

Safety and Tech Update: Runway Safety

There were over 47 million takeoffs and landings during fiscal year 2021, and 1,575 runway incursions, of which 66 percent were caused by pilot deviation, 18 percent by vehicle/pedestrian deviation, and 14 percent by controller operational incident, according to a new report from the Runway Safety Group. Runway Safety Article 114 Representative Bridget Singratanakul says the group “continues to be one of the FAA’s highest priorities and encompasses pilots,
air traffic controllers and airport vehicle drivers. Runway Safety offers guidance, resources and expertise and welcomes questions, comments, and suggestions. We collect and manage data to determine trending runway safety data. We utilize the data to work collaboratively with industry partners and labor to develop and deploy runway safety solutions.”

As part of the Agency’s effort to reduce wrong surface operations, runway incursions, and runway excursions, the Runway Safety Group chose nine airports (three airports per service area) that would benefit from a specific Special Focus Runway Safety Action Team (SFRSAT) meeting, according to Singratanakul. She and the runway safety general manager have co-led these meetings.

Read more here from Singratanakul's latest report.