



To All Media Outlets – Distribute Freely – Immediate Release.

I have attached a press of inductees for the 29th Annual Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinement Banquet. Event to be held Saturday April 30th, 2022, banquet will be hosted at the hangar of Lance Toland in Griffin Georgia. Onsite film crews can be accommodated at this event. This is quite a large and prestigious gathering in the Statewide aviation community. Full biographies are included within the attached release.

Regards,

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The Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame was founded on April 19, 1989, when Governor Joe Frank Harris signed into law the authorization for the establishment of the state's Aviation Hall of Fame in the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base. Located just seven miles from I-75 in Warner Robins, GA, the museum is situated on a beautiful 51-acre site and includes over 90 historical aircraft in its collection.

Mission

It is the mission of the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame to promote and encourage the growth and public support of aviation within the state of Georgia by honoring aviation leaders, living and dead, whose extraordinary achievements or services have made outstanding and lasting contributions to aviation, perpetuating the memory of such persons and recording their contributions and achievements through suitable memorials.

Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame's 2022 Enshrinement Banquet

When it comes to saluting Georgia's aviation pioneers, there is no other event as significant as the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame's annual enshrinement banquet. The 29th occurrence will see three Georgia aviation legends inducted before an anticipated audience of 400 family members, friends, and admirers. This includes not only GAHOF board members and former enshrines, but also government, aerospace and defense industry leaders, media representatives, and aviation enthusiasts from around the state. The evening begins with a one-hour reception held at the hangar of Lance Toland in Griffin Georgia. Surrounded by historic aircraft, guests will then be treated to a gourmet dinner and live presentations to each of the three honorees. Special video productions will be featured in this year's enshrinement ceremony. The 2022 inductees are:

Janet Harmon Bragg

Janet Harmon Bragg was born in Griffin, Georgia on March 24, 1907. She died in blue Island, Illinois on April 11, 1993, after living in both Chicago, Illinois and Tucson, Arizona for many years. In 1943, Mrs. Bragg was the first African American woman to receive a commercial pilot's license. Repeatedly denied opportunities and licensure not based on her lack of education, skills, or ability, but because of her gender and race, Mrs. Bragg nevertheless persevered and excelled in several professions and vocations. As a young girl, Janet Harmon was educated in segregated schools in Griffin and in Fort Valley at the Fort Valley high and Industrial School. After high school graduation, she attended Spelman Seminary where she studied nursing. She returned to Griffin and practiced nursing at the Griffin hospital for a brief period. Eventually, Harmon moved to Illinois during the Great Depression. In Chicago, she found nursing jobs and other temporary employment. A stable position as a healthcare inspector for an insurance company

provided the opportunity to pursue a childhood dream: to fly. This steady income financed her aeronautic education, purchase of eventually three aircraft, and allowed her to support the construction of an airstrip and the industry needs of her fellow flying enthusiasts in the Challenger Air Pilots' Association.

In her autobiography, Bragg stated that she always enjoyed birdwatching and marveled at the aerodynamics of birds. Living in Chicago, she saw a billboard advertising educational programs at the Aeronautical University, formerly the Curtiss-Wright Flying Services. The billboard read: "Bird can fly, why don't you?" and evoked her childhood dream. She enrolled in the evening school program in 1933 while working as a Registered Nurse during the day. She earned her private pilot's license and managed to save enough money to purchase a plane for \$500 and, with her fellow students, physically built an airfield in Robbins, Illinois. During World War II she attempted to join the WASPs but was denied because of her race. She attended the Tuskegee African American pilot training initially denied a commercial license because she was female. Persevering, she eventually received her commercial pilot's license in 1943 in Illinois. Ms. Bragg promoted aviation education in many arenas, including the Civilian Pilot Training Programs at historically black colleges, and was politically active in the promotion of African American aviation education in the US Army Air Corps. She remained an actively licensed pilot for thirty-five years and logged over 2000 flying hours.

Janet Harmon Bragg was enshrined in the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame in the year 2000 when her adoptive state recognized her accomplishments. Honored in 1985 by the Bishop Wright Aviation Industry award, she received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Transportation, honors from the Federal Aviation Administration, and recognition by the Women in Aviation International organization as one of the one hundred most influential women in the Aviation and Aerospace industry. Janet Harmon Bragg, a Georgia native, a female aviation pioneer, and a trailblazer for future pilots, is inspiring as one of Georgia's aviation greats.

Patrick J. Finneran, Jr

Patrick J. Finneran, Jr. Lt. Col, USMC (Ret) is the President of Accelerated Performance Solutions LLC, a management consulting company in Newnan Georgia. He also serves as a director of JURA LLC a private holding company. As a proud resident of Georgia since 2012, he is also active in the Coweta County Chamber of Commerce, an instructor in West Georgia University's continuing education program, and a member of St. George Parish finance council. He is

married to Dr. Pamela Johnson who has been a resident of Newnan since 1995 and who is the majority owner of Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center.

Pat's love for aviation began as a child in Pensacola Florida watching the Blue Angels perform. His dream of flying came true as a college student in the Naval ROTC where he qualified for the Navy's Flight Indoctrination Program and was presented the North American Aviator Award as the top student in 1967.

Following his commission in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967 and his completion of basic infantry officer training he was selected for the Naval Aviation Training Command and received his wings as a Naval Flight Officer in June 1969 as the class honor man. In June 1970 he was assigned to Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 225, First Marine Aircraft Wing, Republic of Vietnam for combat operations in Vietnam and Laos. Pat flew 80 missions for 125 combat hours in the A6 Intruder and UH1E helicopter. He ended his combat tour with the 3rd Marine Amphibious Brigade as the Aide de Camp to the commanding General.

Following Vietnam, Pat served as a flight instructor at NAS Pensacola Florida where he was selected as the instructor of the year in 1973. He then served in a variety of operational and staff positions. During his career he had five operational overseas deployments. He was an honor graduate of the Marine Corps Basic School and the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School. He was a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Command and Staff College and is a graduate of the National War College. Pat has over 2000 accident free hours in 15 different military aircraft including the TAV8B Harrier and the Royal Norwegian F16B. Pat retired from the Marine Corps in 1987 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service medal with Gold Star, Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V and Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Navy Arctic Service Ribbon.

In July 2009 Pat became President and CEO of Sabreliner Corporation which specialized in the maintenance, modification and overhaul of military and commercial aircraft. Prior to going to Sabreliner, Pat was a senior executive of the Boeing Company. He held various leadership positions including President of Boeing Support Systems, a \$7 billion business unit that provided a full spectrum of services to the US Military and our allies. Prior to that Pat was responsible for all Naval Aviation Programs at Boeing and Vice President General manager of F/A 18 Programs.

In 1999 his team was awarded the Collier Trophy for the successful development and testing of the F/A 18 E/F Super Hornet which was completed on time and under budget. Pat was an elected officer of the McDonnell Douglas

Corporation prior to the merger with Boeing. His responsibilities included leading every tactical aircraft program in McDonnell Aircraft Company.

Pat holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Masters Degree from East Carolina and a Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering (Honoris Causa) from the University of Notre Dame. In 2004 he was awarded the Navy League's Prestigious Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz Award for major contributions to the American Maritime Strength and National Security. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award of the Mendoza School of Business at the University of Notre Dame.

In 2006 he was honored by the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation with the Most Distinguished American Award and in 2013 was awarded the Reverend William Corby Award for significant contributions to the United States by the University of Notre Dame.

He is the Chairman Emeritus of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Director of the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation and past Co-Chairman of the St. Louis County Fair and Air Show. He has published articles in the Naval Institute Proceedings and Air University Review. He has also presented papers at the College of Performance Management and the Department of Energy Program Manager Conference.

Captain Donnie L Cochran

Captain Donnie L Cochran's significant Naval Aviation Achievements and national honor: In September 1985, after a very competitive selection process, Captain Cochran was selected as the first African American pilot to fly with the United States Navy's flight demonstration squadron, The Blue Angels in their 40-year history. In 1986 Captain Cochran flew the number three jet and was the last blue Angels team to fly the A-4F Skyhawk. In 1987, Captain Cochran flew the number three jet, and was the first Blue Angel team to fly the F-18 in a blue Angels airshow. In 1988, Captain Cochran transitioned to the slot pilot position flying the number four jet.

Following the completion of his tour as a Blue Angels Pilot, Captain Cochran was recognized by Career Communications Group as the 1989 Black Engineer of the Year. This extraordinary achievement recognized the significant contributions Captain Cochran made as a Blue Angels Pilot and to the Engineering field. In addition, Captain Cochran distinguished performance and highly visible position inspired a whole generation of pilots and engineers for what is possible through maintaining a positive and engaging attitude, a character that is second to none, dedication and enthusiasm for what you desire in life.

In August 1994, Captain Cochran was again selected as the first African American commanding officer and Flight Leader for the United States Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, The Blue Angels. Captain Cochran had the unique honor of flying three of the six flying positions as a Blue Angels pilot and flight leader. Captain Cochran made significant contributions to the United States Navy, United States Armed Forces Recruiting and by inspiring pride and honor in the citizens of the Country by flying over three hundred fifty airshows and practice airshows throughout the United States and Canada.

On August 25, 2015, Georgia's Governor Nathan Deal renamed the recently closed Pelham Detention Center to the Donnie Cochran Community Center in honor of Captain Cochran's extraordinary contributions to Naval Aviation and to the Country in his hometown of Pelham, Georgia. Captain Cochran was also honored for his significant achievement in his military career the honor of being in the Class of 2016 Military Veteran Hall of Fame.

2022 Maintenance Technician of the Year Award

Robert Boehnlein

Since coming to Georgia in 1982 as a licensed Airframe and Powerplant mechanic (A&P) with years of part 145, 135 and 65 experience behind him Robert has run a multitude of well-established GA shops with multiple technicians operating under part 145, 135 & 65. He has been DOM for Lowe Aviation, Airwork of ATL, Dallas Air-motive, Colvin Air Charter. Robert has written three Repair Station part 145 QC manuals to 145 certifications while in GA. Robert has held an Inspection Authorization (IA) since 1983 and performed thousands of Annuals, Major repairs and served as DOM & Chief inspector for many phase inspection operations over the years. Robert applied for and granted a Designated Airworthiness Representative (DAR) certificate by the FAA and held it for years. Roberts latest endeavor has been the establishment of Columbus Aero Service Inc. (CAS) Located in Columbus GA. This operation has 6 employees. Robert has trained many technicians over the years for their A&P. Robert and CAS participate in the American Bonanza Society Annual Pilot/Owner training clinic for the last 5 years.

These clinics give Owner/Pilots a greater and deeper understanding of the inner working of their chosen Aircraft. Robert was also responsible for the first FAR part 145 limited maintenance operation to be located on KCSG. In 2021 the CRS

designated as: CASR907D was awarded to Robert by the FAA ATL FSDO. Robert has expanded this business from simple light GA aircraft to line service for the Airlines which fly to and from CSG and FedEx line service and maintenance. Robert has been in the aviation maintenance business for 44 years and continues to look for new opportunities and ways to both grow GA business. Robert also works to Grow the field on which he operates currently KCSG. He does this through involvement with the servicing and assistance offered to all the corporations which travel in and out of KCSG with 24hr on call service. He also provides two annual field wide BBQ's one in April thanking all who have helped and continue to help and one in October which this year will be celebrating 9 years on KCSG. Robert as well involves his aircraft in the young eagles program each month here at KCSG.

Seating for the 2022 Annual Enshrinement Banquet is limited and by advance reservation only. Seats are \$135 per person with reserved tables for 10 guests also available and can be purchased at <https://www.gaaviationhalloffame.com/about/banquet> . Group Rates are available to GAHOF Banquet attendees at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 1906 N Expy, Griffin, GA 30223 Phone: (770) 233-4747. Attire is black-tie (dark suit optional) and Mess Dress. A social gathering begins at 6PM followed by the program and dinner at 7PM. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For further information contact Heather Turner at the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame at (478) 327-5276 or visit www.gaaviationhalloffame.com .

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