

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** recognizing the value of aviation to the community, Columbia Mayor Dr. L.B. Owens provided the drive, inspiration, and vision to construct the Columbia Municipal Airport, the first public-use airport in the Midlands and the second in South Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** over the two-day period of April 24 - 25, 1930, "Dedication Exercises and Air Races" were conducted in celebration of the opening of the Columbia Municipal Airport, which was renamed Columbia Owens Downtown Airport after World War II and popularly known as Owens Field; and
- WHEREAS,** the first permanent structure at the airport, the Curtiss-Wright Hangar, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a tangible link to aviation pioneers Glenn Curtiss and the Wright Brothers; and
- WHEREAS,** the airport provided commercial air service to the Midlands from both Delta Airlines and Eastern Airlines and supported our country's military efforts during World War II by providing a base for the 105th Observation Squadron of the United States Army Air Force as well as training of V-5 Naval Aviation Cadets; and
- WHEREAS,** following the war, the airport continued to serve as the headquarters for the South Carolina Aviation Commission and support general aviation activities with fixed-base operators such as Dixie Aviation and Hawthorne Aviation; and
- WHEREAS,** under the leadership of Jim Hamilton, who served as both fixed-base operator and volunteer airport manager from the 1960s through the 2000s, the airport continued to thrive and expand and, upon his retirement, was renamed the Jim Hamilton - L.B. Owens Airport in recognition of his significant contributions to its preservation and improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2015, as

THE JIM HAMILTON - L.B. OWENS AIRPORT 85TH ANNIVERSARY DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the airport and celebrate its contributions as a significant aviation transportation hub and economic development engine.



NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA