



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

General Aviation Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, general aviation and local airports play a critical role in the lives of our citizens, businesses, communities, and farms; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aerospace, aircraft manufacturing, educational institutions, aviation organizations, community airports and airport operators; and

WHEREAS, general aviation in Rhode Island supports 1,476 jobs in the state, resulting in a more than \$213 million in annual economic output; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is home to seven public-use airports, which serve 1,283 pilots and 449 active general aviation aircraft; and

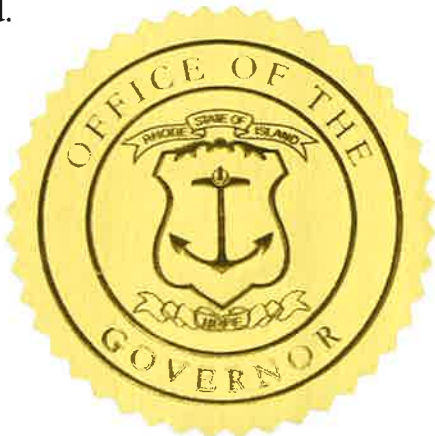
WHEREAS, we are home to five repair stations, two FAA-approved pilot schools, and seven fixed-base operators; and

WHEREAS, general aviation plays a vital role in the state's response to emergencies and natural disasters, rescue operations such as air ambulance transports by fixed wing and rotor craft, in addition to police, warden, and mail service that routinely utilize general aviation to support daily operations and communication; and

WHEREAS, general aviation not only supports Rhode Island's economy, it improves overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and healthcare services, law enforcement, firefighting, and disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, the nation's aviation infrastructure represents an important public benefit, and Congressional oversight should be in place of this system to ensure that it remains a public system and serves communities of all sizes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 2018, as: **General Aviation Appreciation Month** in the state and encourage all citizens to recognize the vital strategic resource that aviation is in Rhode Island.



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 23 day of March, 2018

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor