



**COMMANDER
NAVAL AIR FORCES**

4 August 2009

Association of Naval Aviation
2550 Huntington Ave
Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22303

Dear President/Director,

The United States Navy is pleased to announce that 2011 marks the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation. We are actively planning an exciting Centennial of Naval Aviation celebration with events throughout the year to educate the American public and honor a century of aviation achievements. We recognize that our Naval Aviation heritage has significantly benefited from the contributions of professional organizations throughout the United States. As members of Association of Naval Aviation, you have shown you are strong advocates of Naval Aviation and are dedicated to its promotion. We are truly thankful for your support. Some significant historical events of note include:

- May 8, 1911 - Captain Washington Irving Chambers, USN, prepared the requisition for the Navy's first aircraft, marking the birth of Naval Aviation. Since that historic event, Naval Air has become a fundamental fighting force supporting global reach national security concerns.
- May 22, 1912 - First Lieutenant Alfred Cunningham, USMC, reports to Greenbury Point, Maryland, for flight training, marking the birth of Marine Corps Aviation.
- January 3, 1944 - Commander Frank Erickson, USCG, flies an HNS-1 Hoverfly helicopter through sleet and snow to deliver blood plasma for victims of a New York Harbor Ship Explosion.
- January 26, 1945 - The XFD-1, prototype of the U.S. Navy's first production jet aircraft, makes its maiden flight. The production FD-1 (later, FH-1) becomes the first US-designed, carrier operating, pure-jet fighter.
- May 5, 1961 - Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr., USN/NASA, becomes the first American in space.

As aviation enthusiasts, our intention is to bring Naval Aviation into the public spotlight. This is our opportunity to salute the historical accomplishments of our predecessors, and pave the way for our future successes. Your support of the Centennial of Naval Aviation celebration is essential to its success. I look forward to working with you to promote Centennial activities and I invite you to join us for our Centennial events. For additional information, please visit our Centennial of Naval Aviation website at <http://www.cnaf.navy.mil/centennial/> or contact RDML Pat McGrath at (619) 545-4680.

Again, please let me express my thanks for your continuing appreciation for all that is Naval Aviation.

Sincerely,

T. J. KILCLINE, JR.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy