



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, Orville and Wilbur Wright established the state's first civilian flying field on the grounds of a former cotton field near Montgomery, Alabama in March 1910; and*

*WHEREAS, the general aviation industry has made significant contributions to economic development within the state of Alabama for more than one-hundred years; and*

*WHEREAS, the general aviation industry, including aircraft manufacturing firms, educational institutions, aviation organizations, aviation service providers and general aviation airports continue to contribute to economic growth within the state of Alabama; and*

*WHEREAS, general aviation within the state of Alabama is represented by 76 general aviation public-use airports and 61 rotorcraft landing pads that serve more than 5,500 based aircraft, 7,700 certificated pilots and 7,000 aviation maintenance technicians; and*

*WHEREAS, the general aviation industry in Alabama contributes \$800 million in first round impacts to the state's economy and is critical to industrial and economic recruitment efforts, and to the retention and expansion of businesses in Alabama; and*

*WHEREAS, one in three people employed in the state of Alabama work for a company or industry that directly utilizes general aviation in the performance of its business; and*

*WHEREAS, general aviation serves a vital role in emergency response to man-made and natural disasters; and*

*WHEREAS, the general aviation industry provides critical services to the residents of Alabama to include medical evacuation, critical care patient transport, fire-fighting, law enforcement, aerial survey and mapping, aerial application and forestry services; and*

*WHEREAS, many communities in Alabama depend on the general aviation industry and general aviation airports for the continued flow of commerce, tourism and essential services; and*

*WHEREAS, Alabama's aviation and aerospace industry consists of more than 300 companies that directly and indirectly employ more than 150,000 workers and have an annual payroll of \$6.16 billion and contribute to the economic development of the state and the advancement of aviation and aerospace in the United States and abroad;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2012 as*

## *General Aviation Appreciation Month*

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012.*

*Robert Bentley*  
Robert Bentley, Governor