

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

A PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF
THE JIM HAMILTON-LB OWENS AIRPORT IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Columbia's "Flying Mayor," Dr. L. B. Owens, saw the value of aviation to a community and provided the drive, inspiration, and vision to construct this airport which was originally named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, this public use airport, the first in the Midlands and the second in the State, was constructed as a joint project with Richland County providing the property and the City of Columbia managing the construction of facilities and other improvements; and

WHEREAS, over the two-day period of April 24th and 25th in 1930, "Dedication Exercises and Air Races" were conducted in celebration of the opening of the Columbia Municipal Airport, Owens Field; and

WHEREAS, the Curtiss-Wright Hangar, which still stands today, was the first permanent structure on the airport and is a tangible link to the American 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

WHEREAS, the Airport supported America's war effort during the Second World War by providing a base for the 105th Observation Squadron, US Army Air Force, as well as the training of V-5 Naval Aviation Cadets; and

WHEREAS, in the post war years, the Airport continued to serve as the headquarters for the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission as well as support General Aviation activities with Fixed Based Operators such as Dixie Aviation and Hawthorne Aviation; and

WHEREAS, the Airport continued to thrive and expand in the 1960s through the 2000s under the leadership of Jim Hamilton who served both as the Fixed Base Operator and volunteer Airport Manager; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Jim Hamilton's significant contribution to the preservation and improvement of the Airport, it was renamed in his honor upon his retirement as The Jim Hamilton-LB Owens Airport; and

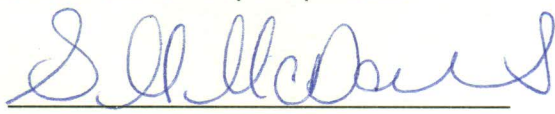
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED the Richland County Council recognizes the 85th Anniversary of this important public work which continues to serve the Capital City and the Midlands Region of South Carolina as a significant general aviation transportation hub and economic development engine.

ADOPTED this 21st day of April 2015


L. Gregory Pearce, Member
Richland County Council


Torrey Rush, Chairman
Richland County Council

ATTEST this 21st day of April 2015


S. Monique McDaniels
Clerk to Council