

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.
E.A.A. AIRSHOW
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Thank you ...Tom Poberezny (**Poh-ber-ez-nee**). It's a pleasure to be here in Oshkosh surrounded by so many varieties and types of aircraft. From vintage Word War One fighters, to state of the art jets, to experimental aircraft -- we have on the runway planes and jets which push the envelope of innovation to its limit.

Aviation -- especially experimental aviation -- has always attracted an uncommon sort of person: dreamers and daredevils. Men and women who are brave and courageous. Lesser known names like Otto Lilienthal (**Lil-ee-en-thal**) (a 19th century glider pilot) and Frank Whittle (who first developed the jet engine) stand alongside more famous names: Amelia Erhardt, Charles Lindbergh, and Chuck Yeager.

But it's often the planes not the pilots and engineers that we remember best.

Just down the street from the Department of Transportation in Washington is the National Air and Space Museum. It contains countless examples of America's pioneering spirit in aviation.

As you walk into the museum's main hall you see so many examples of American know how at work.

You see immediately the fragile Wright Brothers' *Flyer*, which flew at Kitty Hawk. You see the *Voyager*, which went around the world in 9 days without landing or refueling. And you see the sleek looking X-15 -- which twenty-five years ago set the record for the highest flight and fastest speed for a winged aircraft.

All of these aircraft bridge nearly 90 years of American aviation excellence. And they helped make America the leader in general aviation.

This country depends upon general aviation for just about everything --to obtain medical treatment for the sick and injured .. to protect our crops .. to haul freight.

It's a vital and essential part of this nation's transportation infrastructure. It provides an economic life line between small-town America and the rest of the world.

Be you a pilot of a single-engine crop duster or a slick corporate jet, you are all part of America's general aviation heritage. This nation's 600 thousand licensed pilots are truly a national resource and asset and we will not let you down. At every opportunity we will work with you to help general aviation reach new heights.

We salute you -- the builders and pilots of these wondrous aircraft on display today. And we salute your dedication to the spirit of flight.

May the dream --started with the Wright brothers -- continue well into the 21 century.

Thank you and have a great -- and safe -- airshow.

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