

The Triumph of Flight®

Bringing an Icon to Dayton - The Birthplace of Aviation

Branding America's Only National Aviation Heritage Area
Symbolizing Ohio's Aerospace Leadership

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Soaring 270 feet above the intersection of I-70 & I-75 and seen by thousands of vehicles daily, this 144 foot wingspan monument to the Wright Flyer will symbolize Dayton, Ohio throughout the world.



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For Walter...

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Walter Ohlmann, age 87, President and co-founder of the Wright Image Group, passed away early in the morning of August 19th, 2016.

He had been in and out of the hospital virtually all summer, battling multiple health issues. At the end, he was in the hospital under hospice care and surrounded by family. He fought valiantly, remaining deeply engaged in his business dealings and in advancing the Triumph of Flight® until the very end. His passing marks the end of an era in the saga that is the Triumph of Flight®. To say we will miss him is simply inadequate.

Walter was a pillar of the Dayton community. Recipient of the Intermarket Agency Network's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award, the City of Hope's Spirit of Life Award, Junior Achievement's Free Enterprise Award, the American Advertising Federation's Silver Medal Award, the National Society of

Fund Raising Executives Volunteer of the Year Award, and recognition twice by the national organization of Jobs for Graduates, Walter had a drive to serve that benefitted many organizations in the Dayton Region in addition to the Wright Image Group. "His philanthropic fund raising efforts resulted in contributions of over \$60 million for various local, national and global organizations and causes.¹"

Called on in the early years of the project's history by the others who dreamed of this monument {see the April 2015 issue of this newsletter}, Walter's leadership and business acumen led to the group's incorporation in 2006. He made his advertising business at 1605 North Main St. in Dayton its home, and hosted it there ever since, providing all the things that make an enterprise viable – an address, a phone number, a conference room, administrative functions, advertising, graphics support, business contacts, and most importantly, the enthusiastic support of his talented staff and employees. His personal reputation as a businessman and community leader gave us credibility that we would not



IN MEMORY

Walter Ohlmann

1928 - 2016

See [Walter](#) on page 2

Walter from page 1

have otherwise had. His initial business plan is one that we still basically follow. Instances over the years where he quietly picked up project expenses and paid them are too many to count. In short, his support and guidance put this group of mostly novice volunteers squarely onto the path that will lead to America's newest monument, the Triumph of Flight®.

Walter's daughters, Linda and Lori, will continue his legacy with the Ohlmann Group, and have stated their intention to continue supporting the Wright Image Group as well.

"While Walter's earthly travels have been completed, his journey continues. His travels here measured not only by what he achieved, but also by what he helped others to accomplish. Walter was someone who you didn't just meet, but rather someone who you remembered.1"

On your flight through the hereafter, Walter, we wish you fair skies and tail winds. Our hearts will carry your memory forever, as the Triumph of Flight® will carry your name.

UD State Halls of Fame Research Complete



Example of an austere approach – the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame

Late in 2015, the concept of including an Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame in the Triumph of Flight design became part of the project's baseline. Knowing there was already some interest in that within the Ohio legislature, but without any idea what specifically it might require, we approached the University of Dayton's Director of the Center for Project Excellence, Professor Stephen Hall, to see if he would be willing to sponsor a volunteer student effort to benchmark any and all other state aviation halls of fame. This would require an extensive research project to discover what states had aviation halls of fame, canvass all of them for such details as how they were formed, organized, and supported, as well as learn how they operated. This would require a significant chunk of time. Professor Hall was enthusiastic about the idea, and brokered an arrangement with a student volunteer, Micaela Sprenger, a hard-working, high-achieving young lady, also in the process of earning her private pilot's license, to take on that project. Curt Nelson generated a research charter with all the

questions that needed to be answered, met with Professor Hall and Micaela to review them, and then Micaela was off and running. Her research extended through July, and at the Wright Image Group board meeting on August 4th, she presented her results. Those results have been passed to Dayton area Representative Rick Perales for use by his Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee in deliberations about a potential Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame, co-located with the Triumph of Flight®.

Once again, we are the beneficiary of an excellent piece of work by a volunteer University of Dayton student. The results Micaela presented were surprising – there are 34 other states that have a state aviation hall of fame, but there is absolutely no standard model. Our legislators should take encouragement from the fact that over half of them (57%) were established by state legislative action! Other highlights are as follows:

- 24 of them are incorporated in a museum - devoted primarily to aviation. Another 5 are incorporated into a commercial airport setting.

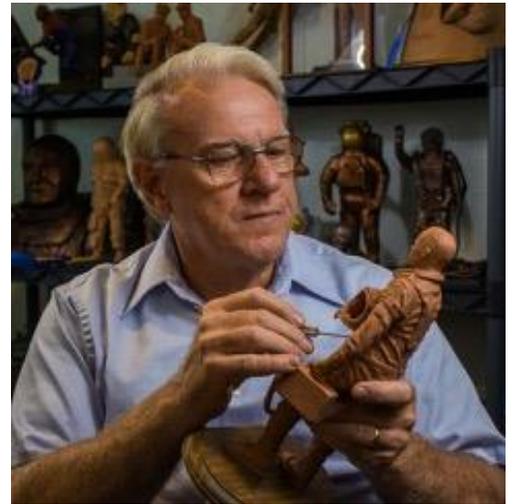
Welcome to a New Team Member

The Wright Image Group is proud to welcome its newest team member, Don Hatcher. Steve Brown, impressed by Don's artistic talents, introduced him to the Board at the August meeting where Don displayed several small clay sculptures, about 15 inches tall, of the same figures now planned for the Evolution of Flight Park at the base of the Triumph of Flight®. These included Wilbur and Orville Wright, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Icarus. The amount of detail on these small figures and their artistic quality were truly impressive!

Asked about his reasons for creating these clay models, Don explained that he had been quite taken with the concept of the Triumph of Flight® and wanted to find a way to contribute to the effort. He approached Steve with a proposal to work on his design team without compensation provided he would be offered the opportunity to produce the actual sculptures during construction. In Steve's estimation, the quality of Don's work was excellent, and the prices he suggested were less than what he had seen from other sources. So he brought that proposal to the board. Attendance at that particular board meeting was less than a quorum, but the members enthusiastically agreed to bring Don aboard, pending formal approval at a later meeting. His addition to the design team of Steve Brown and Dan Patterson will make their collaboration even more dramatic.

Originally from Springfield, Ohio, Don has been an artist for more than 47 years. He started with advertising art in television, where he also developed an interest in news videography that continued until his retirement from WDTN-TV in 2012. He also did commercial art as an illustrator and went on to become a technical illustrator in the aviation industry.

An enduring interest in space and aviation art led him to become an accomplished artist in that field. His paintings were on display at the Lee County Planetarium in Florida for Space Week 1988 and at Urbana's Champaign County Arts Council in 1993.



His first venture into sculpting was here in the Dayton area at FoxLite in Enon for aspects of his job as a tool and patternmaker. He pursued his sculpting talents after retirement and now has a strong record of accomplishments.

One of his most notable was a memorial sculpture of Clark County Deputy Suzanne Hopper who was fatally shot on duty January 1st, 2011 – an event that Don covered as a news photographer. The sculpture remains on display at the Clark County Sheriff's office.

Don has a unique take on art – especially sculpture. He believes that the level of detail in his works should incorporate as much detail as exists in real life. We are confident that his representations of the immortal figures chosen for display at the Triumph of Flight® will thrill its visitors.

To join, make a donation, or get information explaining the different contribution and recognition levels, write to us at:

Triumph of Flight®

1605 N. Main St
Dayton, OH 45405

or visit our website,
www.wrightmonument.org

Annual Membership Dues*

1 year - \$20

2 years - \$35

3 years - \$50

** Applicable to Individuals, Families or Businesses*

The WIG is a proud partner of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance.

As such, we ask our donors to make checks out to the Aviation Heritage Foundation and mark them so that it is clear the donation is specifically intended for the Wright Image Group.

By flowing our donations through the foundation, the federal government will match a portion of them. This additional funding goes to support the aviation heritage of the entire region. (See instructions below)



Halls of Fame from page 2



Example of a high end approach – the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame

**Make checks payable to:
Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc.**

**With the following comment
on the "For" line:**

"Restricted for WIG"

and mail to:

**Triumph of Flight®
1605 N. Main St Dayton OH 45405**

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- The approach to displaying inductee information varies from austere to elegant (see included photos.)
- Most (67%) are close to regional and local airports.
- Most (84%) charge an admission price (in the range of \$7 - \$16)
- Co-located hosts for the most part have assumed managerial and custodial responsibilities for their hosted halls of fame.
- Virtually all have a selection process that includes submission of nominees, selection by committee, and ceremonial induction.
- Most hold induction ceremonies in the same location each year, a few rotate between different locations.
- Virtually all are incorporated as 501 (c) (3) non-profits.
- Only one hall of fame receives any funding from the state – Tennessee receives \$15,000 annually.
- The most effective exhibits (e.g., Alaska) are interactive.

Even though only one state offers any annual funding to its aviation hall of fame, none of them can claim as its birthright the place where aviation and the aviation industry were born. It seems that Ohio, which can make that claim, should have as its objective the very best state aviation hall of fame there is. If that requires a small annual investment by the state, it is worth it!

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