



For Immediate Release

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Reagan National Turns 65

Gateway to the Nation's Capital has welcomed over 626 million flyers

This month, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport celebrates 65 years of service to the Washington region. During that time, the Airport has served 626,764,120 passengers who flew on 17,424,044 aircraft of all sizes and types, from the early prop planes to the regional jets of the 21st century.

Said James E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, "This Airport has truly been a witness to the long history of our Nation's Capital and to the development of the communities that make up the Metropolitan Washington Region."

"When local residents came to the "new" airport when it opened in 1941, very few of them actually flew. The first year of National Airport's history, over 2 million people visited the airport but 344,257 were actual passengers. Today, air travel has become an expected part of our lives and has changed our world. We are proud of the role Reagan National has played in providing air service to our community for business and pleasure and to keep us connected to the global economy."

The Airport was built on the site of a former home of George Washington's granddaughter. The Airports Authority has created an Exhibit Hall in the lobby area of historic Terminal A which documents the history of the airport, and aviation as it developed in Washington and offers a display of artifacts gathered in an archeological dig conducted in the late 1990's on the site of the former residence.

Some of the milestones in the Airport's history include:

1940 Dedication of the Washington National Airport by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

1941 Airport opened for business in June with one hangar completed and five under construction.

1958 North Terminal opened.

1966 Jet aircraft began operating at National Airport.

1977 Metrorail service to the Airport began.

1987 The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority began operation of the Airport.

1991 First parking garage opened on the Airport.

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- 1997 The New Terminal B/C opened.
- 1998 Abingdon site restored and Exhibit Hall opened.
- 1999 Completed improvements to Mt. Vernon Bridge Trail on Airport property for recreational use.
- 2001 Reagan National Airport reopened to commercial aircraft operations on October 4 after being closed for 23 days following September 11th terrorist attacks.
- 2005 Reagan National Airport reaches a new record of 17.8 million passengers.

Test Your Reagan National Airport Knowledge

1. What building now sits on the former site of the old Hoover Airport which National Airport was built to replace?
2. What Metro lines serve the Airport?
3. Terminal A was designed to look like what famous building?
4. When you hear “The temperature at National Airport is....” On the television and radio, do you know where the temperature is taken at the Airport by the National Weather Service?
5. How many clocks are in the airport public facilities?

(Answers: Pentagon; blue and yellow; Mount Vernon; the pier in the Potomac River at the south end of the airport; 418 digital clocks)

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