

Message on Wright Brothers Day

December 17, 2025

Today our Nation celebrates the heroic moment America took to the skies when Orville and Wilbur Wright launched the first controlled, machine-powered aircraft on December 17, 1903. This Wright Brothers Day, we honor the genius and bravery of two pioneers from Dayton, Ohio, and we proudly carry their legacy forward by championing the imagination, perseverance, and bold ambition that gave rise to their magnificent achievement.

What the Wright brothers lacked in formal education, they matched with unrelenting drive. Despite not earning high school degrees, Orville and Wilbur taught themselves the mechanical and engineering skills they needed to build their first aircraft. They drew inspiration from European gliders and soon after attempted their own leap into the uncharted frontier of powered flight. After 4 years of relentless research, design, and testing, their work paid off on a cold, gray day near Kitty Hawk when Orville lifted their *Flyer* into the air for 12 seconds, traveling 120 feet at just under 7 miles per hour. Orville and Wilbur's feat marked the first time in history that man lifted off the ground in a piloted, mechanized flying machine.

The Wright brothers' epic feat on the windswept shores of North Carolina opened a new chapter of innovation for all mankind and began a new era of American aviation power that continues to propel our country upwards among the clouds and beyond. Since that historic day in North Carolina, the United States has remained the world leader in flight and aviation. Less than seven decades later, the Wright brothers' triumph at Kitty Hawk led Americans to the Moon, and my administration is focused on returning there, and beyond to Mars.

We are also continuing the Wright brothers' proud legacy by presiding over a new golden age of air travel and innovation. Shortly after I returned to office, I signed an Executive order restoring excellence and safety within the Federal Aviation Administration. We are ending disastrous so-called "diversity, equity, and inclusion" programs that put Americans at risk and restoring the sacred principle of merit to hiring practices. Through the passage of the "One Big Beautiful Bill," we are investing \$12.5 billion to modernize air traffic control with cutting-edge technology.

America is also leading the way in supersonic flight. I have ordered the administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct groundbreaking levels of research and development into commercial supersonic flight, driving new advances in air travel that will incorporate the latest artificial intelligence technologies.

In the 122 years since the Wright brothers' revolutionary flight, our Nation has never stopped gazing upward in wonder and hope. As we commemorate Orville and Wilbur's legendary achievement today, we pledge to carry their vision into every new frontier and keep America's skies bright with the innovation, discovery, and unstoppable spirit that drive our Nation to new heights.

Categories: Letters and Messages : Wright Brothers Day, message.

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