



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Virginia Aviation Board meets, allocates funds to state airports**

**Richmond**—The Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations of Commonwealth Airport Funds for Fiscal year 2009 at its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Holiday Inn Richmond Airport. Approved Air Carrier/Reliever Discretionary funding was \$47,500 and General Aviation Discretionary funding was \$11,411.

Among the six airports receiving funding were Mountain Empire Airport, which received \$7,510 to implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan; Winchester Regional, which received \$2,100 for runway rehabilitation; and Chesterfield County, which received \$40,000 for T-hanger taxilane rehabilitation.

The VAB also passed a resolution honoring the late Jean Waltrip, who managed the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport for more than 30 years. Mrs. Waltrip had been instrumental in forming the airport with her husband Larry. In 2001, the Waltrips became the first husband and wife team to be inducted in the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society Hall of Fame. In 2005, the couple received the Captain John Smith Award, given by James City County Economic Development Division, as the top business in James City County.

The next VAB meeting is scheduled for May 21 in Richmond.

The VAB has eight members representing seven regions of the Commonwealth. The Board approves funding requests brought to it by the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV).

The Virginia Department of Aviation continually strives to become the standard of excellence amongst State Aviation Agencies through; its cultivation of an advanced aviation system, a system that is not only safe for consumers, but one that will provide economic development opportunities throughout the Commonwealth; its promotion and education of aviation and aviation related issues, subsequently raising aviation awareness in the Commonwealth and beyond; and by providing executive flight services for the Commonwealth leadership.

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