



For Immediate Release
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Columbus airport renamed after Ohio-native and American icon John Glenn

COLUMBUS - John Glenn, an Ohio native known for his pioneering flights and space exploration, was honored today at a celebration for the renaming of Port Columbus International Airport to John Glenn Columbus International Airport. Glenn, along with his wife Annie and several Ohio officials, gathered at the airport to pay tribute to the former U.S. Senator and ground-breaking astronaut.

"Thank you to all of those who had a part in adding my name to this great airport. It's a wonderful honor that wasn't expected," Glenn said. "My hope is that, because of this, some young people may possibly be inspired in their own time and place to make further advancements in aviation and space activity."

Senate Bill 159, which changes the name of the airport, was signed into law by Ohio Gov. John Kasich and goes into effect in September. The bill was introduced by House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, R-Clarksville, and was strongly endorsed by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's Board of Directors.

CRAA Board Chair Susan Tomasky said, "Glenn's contributions to Ohio's rich aviation history are inspirational and I'm thrilled we're honoring his legacy at the gateway to Columbus and our state. His career and life-long accomplishments will live on for generations and there's no better place to recognize him than at Ohio's capital city airport."

In 1962, Glenn was the first American to orbit Earth aboard Friendship 7. In 1974, he was elected to the U.S. Senate (D-Ohio) and served four consecutive terms. Glenn, who turns 95 in July, became the oldest person to fly in space in 1998 at the age of 77 when he lifted off on the Space Shuttle Discovery. Throughout his life, he has received numerous aviation accolades including NASA's Ambassador of Exploration Award in 2006 and a Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in 2012.

John Glenn Columbus International Airport

Centrally located in Ohio, John Glenn Columbus International Airport is one of three airports operated by the [Columbus Regional Airport Authority](http://www.flycolumbus.com). Opened in 1929, the airport offers nearly 150 daily departures to 33 destinations from Columbus, the 15th largest U.S. city. Nearly 7 million passengers traveled through the airport in 2015, an increase of 7 percent over 2014. Learn more at flycolumbus.com.

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