

The word *special* is really a theme this year. We have recognized Special Projects and a Manager who has been on the job for almost 50 years—also pretty special. So it is appropriate that we also recognize as the 2017 Airport of the Year one that has participated in some very special events in addition to continuing to develop capacities for economic development—all while supporting their standard flying activities. Tullahoma Regional Airport/William Northern Field representatives, please join us on the stage.

Tullahoma has been aggressively continuing pavements maintenance projects while pursuing multiple economic development opportunities. In the last several years, they have built two aprons on the NW side to include a maintenance hangar, hosted two privately funded maintenance hangars as well as access road development, completed some concrete ramp repairs, remarked the primary runway, and rehabbed some very old taxiways giving access to the business development areas. All of this amounted to nearly \$4 million in construction—while bringing in a DOD contractor, Sarasota Avionics and XP Services avionics installers, and jobs to the local area.

Home to over 140 based aircraft and experiencing approximately 40,000 flight operations per year, Tullahoma has realized record fuel sales for three years in a row. They host the UT Space Institute Flight Research Center, Vanderbilt Life Flight, and Skydive Tennessee and are the annual staging base for the Bonnaroo Music Festival. The operation is in outstanding fiscal condition.

Now for the *special* activities. As home for the world class Beechcraft Heritage Museum, Tullahoma entertains many visitors, especially during the very well attended yearly Beech Party fly-ins. Beech aircraft come from all over the country, and the ramp often fills with historic, restored planes.

With the museum as a big draw, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) selected Tullahoma as the Southeast Regional Fly-in location for 2015. Regional fly-ins have replaced the old annual AOPA convention, and have taken AOPA closer to their membership by moving around the country to multiple locations each year. Tullahoma saw almost 300 airplanes make their way through rough weather to attend safety seminars, talk with vendors and suppliers, and network with others interested in aviation. It was a significant honor to be selected as a fly-in site, and Jon Glass and his team pulled it off. A very good show for Tullahoma and for Tennessee Airports.

For all this special activity, Tullahoma is recognized as the 2017 Airport of the Year.