

Birthplace of Aviation celebrates National Aviation Day

Abigail Forbes : 2-3 minutes

DAYTON, Ohio (WKEF) -- President Franklin D. Roosevelt established National Aviation Day in 1939. He set it for August 19, Orville Wright's birthday.

Orville Wright and his brother, Wilbur, are credited with inventing and flying the first aircraft and they were born here in Dayton, making Dayton known as the birthplace of Aviation.

Local historians and pilots couldn't hide their excitement for this day.

"This all started with two brothers and some interesting ideas here in Dayton," said Doug Lantry, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force historian and curator in the research division.

Andrew Sarangan has been part of the Dayton Pilot's Club for about 20 years and shared his love for Aviation.

"If you talk to any pilots, Aviation had been a significant impact. It altered the course of their life. All the decision they make as to where do they live, and what they do, how they spend their spare time has been significantly impacted by aviation," said Sarangan.

Dayton Wright Brothers Airport hosted a wheels and wings show. One man explained how aviation saved his life. He has always loved flying and now he enjoys sharing it with the next generation.

"I take children 8-14, I give them their first plane ride, and I have one of them here with me today, he's wandered around the show here somewhere, Daniel," said John Belluardo, pilot and Luscombe 8A aircraft owner.

Daniel is now 17. He already has his private pilot license and is on his way to become a commercial pilot because of Belluardo.

"I was over here 8 years old, flying this plane with John, and now I've been going to all these events with him, and he's letting me fly his plane himself," said Daniel Gertz.

Sarangan's says his hope for the future of aviation is already in motion.

"In the future, I'm hopeful that there will be more younger people entering Aviation," Sarangan said.

The City of Dayton is rich with opportunities to learn more history about Aviation. A few of those resources and locations are listed below:

- [Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park](#)
- [National Museum of the US Air Force](#)
- [Wright Brothers National Museum](#)