



**MARCH 2007 AIRPORT NEWS**

**VOLUME 7**

**www.stlouisdowntownairport.com**

**ISSUE 3**

**CALL FOR ACTION  
ON AVIATION USER FEES &  
AIRPORT FUNDING CUTS**

**It's official...new aviation user fees have been proposed to begin in 2009.**

**In addition to user fees beginning in 2009, the President's 2008 budget also cuts \$765 million from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).**

The reduced AIP funding will have a disproportionate impact on general aviation (GA) airports as it will effectively eliminate the GA airport entitlement within AIP—large airports will get the grants they need but improvements at the smaller GA airports will all but cease.

It's time for you to get involved! Let congress know how important general aviation is, how damaging user fees can be, and how important continued investment is in our GA airports before it's too late.

The user fee issue is one where all GA user groups can agree without exception. EAA, AOPA, NBAA, NATA and the various other organizations that represent the interests of GA—from the smallest operator of experimental and light sport aircraft to the largest operator of intercontinental business jets—all agree that user fees are not needed, will damage general aviation, and are simply an effort to shift some of the costs away from the airlines to other segments of the aviation community.

For more information on the user fee issue, visit the AOPA web site or the user group of your choice. To identify your elected officials and learn how to write to them, visit [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org).

**It's time to step up and be heard before it's too late!**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March 1: Gateway Area Ultralight Assoc. Meeting**, Upstairs Hgr 1, 7:30 pm

**March 2: Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Assoc. meeting** at Syberg's on Dorset, 11:30am

**March 6: EAA Chapter 64 Meeting**, Upstairs Hangar 1 at 7 pm (food at 6)

**March 10: Midwest Fly-in planning meeting**, 10am, Airport Administration Conference Room

**March 11: Daylight Saving Time Begins**

**March 30: Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Assoc. meeting** (see [www.gslbaa.org](http://www.gslbaa.org))

**April 3: EAA Chapter 64 Meeting**

**May 5-6: Midwest Regional Fly-in** at CPS

**NATA PRESS RELEASE:**



**DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED FOR  
OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP**

Bob McDaniel, the St. Louis Downtown Airport director, will be honored for outstanding leadership at the National Air Transportation Association (NATA) 2007 Leadership Conference, March 19-22. The industry excellence award will be presented during Aviation Industry Week in Orlando, Florida.

NATA recognizes one airport manager each year who has devoted his or her career to developing a positive relationship between the airport and its tenants. NATA is extremely pleased to recognize Bob McDaniel as the 2006

award recipient for his excellence in nurturing the "partnership" between airport management and his many and varied airport business tenants.

McDaniel, who is also an active pilot, took the reigns of St. Louis Downtown Airport in 2000. He quickly developed strong relationships and worked closely with airport businesses to orchestrate an aggressive growth and development program. A building boom began under his leadership, and the airport quickly grew to become the busiest general aviation airport in the state and 42nd busiest in the U.S.

His key accomplishments include acquiring the funding to construct a new air traffic control tower, modernizing airport operations and business practices through the implementation of a geographic information system, and working innovatively with tenants to help build their businesses.

As this year's Airport Executive Partnership Award winner, McDaniel joins the ranks of the following outstanding past recipients:

- 1994 - Loretta Scott, Tyler Pounds Field TX
- 1995 - Harold "Hall" Wight, Contra Costa County CA
- 1996 - Steven G. Whitney, Friends of Meigs
- 1997 - Kevin T. McNamara, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
- 1998 - Brent Shiner, City of Hayward, CA
- 1999 - Michael Barth, Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, OH
- 2000 - Richard R. Baird, Friedman Memorial Airport, ID
- 2001 - William Barkhauer, Morristown Municipal Airport, NJ
- 2002 - Robert Olisagers, Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority, CO
- 2003 - Frederick Krum, Akron-Canton Regional Airport, OH
- 2004 - Edward B. Cooley, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, FL
- 2005 - Clara Bennett, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, FL



**Ruth Leslie**

**July 19, 1926 - February 8, 2007**

Ruth Leslie, the airport's office manager from 1965 to 1989, passed away recently. She was truly devoted to this airport and her presence will be felt for decades to come through the lives of those she touched along the way.

The airport reopened in 1965 after 6 years of closure and Ruth was there in hangar one to set up the office and get things going. In the 1960's, 70's, and 80's, if you needed fuel, tiedown, hangar space, a taxicab or rental car, a coke, a candy bar, directions, or if you rented a plane, you talked to Ruth.

If you called in on the airport radio, Ruth was there too, giving wind and traffic information to all the pilots flying in the area. Or if you just needed someone to talk to, she was there....for everyone. Ruth was the airport's front doorman, information desk, office manager, the public relations department, the advertising and marketing department and the mentor and guidance department for the airport staff.

She was "Mom" to countless Parks students and "den mother" for dozens of "line boys" who started their aviation careers under her caring guidance.

She was an avid pilot and raised a family filled with multiple generations of pilots, flight attendants, and others now making their mark in aviation.

For many years, the airport used postcards of Ruth's beautiful gold and white Beechcraft Musketeer parked in front of historic hangar one.



Ruth retired in 1989 but she never retired from looking after the airport. Right up to her untimely passing, she stayed abreast of airport events and progress, stopped in for no-notice airport inspections as frequently as she could visit from her Lake Ozark home, and checked in frequently by telephone to make sure that we were taking good care of "her" airport.

Ruth was "Mom" to many of us and will always be an important part of who we are and a key part of our airport's history.

Memorials may be made to Missy's Mirror, Kansas City Cancer Institute, Suite 4000, 4321 Washington St., Kansas City, Missouri 64111.