In America's 20th century history, few military organizations played a more crucial role than Naval Aviation. In war at sea, eclipsing the battleship as the decisive weapon, aircraft carriers projected their powerful air wings over vast expanses of ocean, striking with surprise at enemy fleets and land bases, then disappearing with equal swiftness. In times of peace, the carrier and her battle group provided American political leaders a flexible, diligent and potent way to respond to regional crises wherever and whenever American vital interests were threatened. “Where are the carriers?” has been the first question asked by American presidents at the start of every national security crisis since the end of World War II.

Naval Aviation has also been at the cutting edge of aerospace history: the first successful crossing of the Atlantic by an aircraft, exploration of high altitude flight, exploration of the Arctic and Antarctic and exploration of outer space. Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy pilots pioneered the use of one of the century's most dynamic inventions for peaceful and combat purposes: the helicopter.

The common denominator for those who participated in this exciting history was their training in a sleepy little southern city on the Gulf of Mexico: Pensacola, Florida. These young men and women all arrived in Pensacola with the same dream: earning the coveted wings of gold. It was here that the fledglings tested their mettle against the demands of flying aircraft. They learned the unique skills required to fly from ships at sea, find distant targets and return to their moving, rolling and pitching “airfield,” often in bad weather and frequently at night.

It makes perfect sense that Pensacola has a world-class museum to commemorate its place in history.
Located on 37 acres of wooded land adjacent to Forrest Sherman Field and historic Fort Barrancas at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, the National Museum of Naval Aviation attracts approximately one million visitors every year. It is currently the second-largest aviation museum in the United States, housing more than 140 aircraft, scores of scale models, hundreds of paintings and photographs in fascinating exhibits, and an impressive research library. Among other things, the 291,000-square-foot structure of steel and glass features a life-size replica of the flight deck and island superstructure of the World War II light carrier USS *Cabot*, with period aircraft on deck and suspended overhead. The 10,000-square-foot Blue Angel Atrium encloses a quartet of gleaming McDonnell Douglas A-4 *Skyhawk* jets once used by the renowned flight demonstration squadron, suspended beneath a skylight in their famous diamond formation. An awe-inspiring menagerie of aircraft, artifacts and memorabilia associated with Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Aviation, the National Museum of Naval Aviation is truly a national treasure.

The Museum began with the vision of one man, many years ago. In 1955, Magruder H. Tuttle, a Navy captain and Chief of Staff to the Commander, Naval Air Basic Training Command at NAS Pensacola, discussed with CAPT Bernard M. “Smoke” Strean his concern that the training curriculum did not give the students any exposure to the history of Naval Aviation. As is still the case today, time and budgets were tight, and the essentials of flight training left little surplus.

The pair agreed that the best alternative to yet another class for flight students would be the creation of a small museum commemorating Naval Aviation achievements that would instill in young Naval Aviators a sense of pride in their elite service. They presented the idea to their boss, VADM Austin K. Doyle, then Chief of Naval Air Training, who additionally saw a public relations benefit to the idea. He forwarded the proposal to the Chief of Naval Operations with his endorsement, but the response from Washington, DC, was lukewarm. The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations made clear that such an enterprise would have to come from the command’s own operating funds and that no additional appropriations in funds or personnel could be used for that purpose. Moreover, active duty personnel could not solicit donations to promote an official activity. CAPT Tuttle’s idea seemed at an impasse. For the moment, there could be no aviation museum at NAS Pensacola.

Tuttle returned to Pensacola in 1961 as a rear admiral and Chief of Naval Basic Air Training. He promptly renewed his proposal for a Naval Aviation museum. Along with the new administration of John F. Kennedy in Washington, came a young, energetic secretary of the Navy, Paul B. Fay, a close friend and advisor to the president. Tuttle approached Fay with his idea and received an enthusiastic response.

Armed with Fay’s approval, Tuttle finally received a go-ahead for fundraising by the active duty personnel in the Pensacola area. Secretary Fay followed with an announcement on 14 December 1962 establishing the Naval Aviation Museum and charging it with the selection, collection, preservation and display of appropriate memorabilia representative of the development, growth and heritage of Naval Aviation.

On 8 June 1963, the Naval Aviation Museum opened. Housed in a renovated wood-frame building constructed during World War II, it was a modest start. With a mere 8,500 square feet available for display, Museum Director CAPT James McCurtain...
displayed eight aircraft that were rotated periodically with others in storage at the Naval Air Station.

The growing collection at Pensacola quickly overwhelmed the capacity of the Museum to display the aircraft, let alone restore them, and storage space became difficult to find. An executive committee was established by the Chief of Naval Operations in March 1964, and at their first meeting, in January 1965, they agreed that the Museum needed to expand to meet the growing demands placed upon it. New construction appeared to be the only practical solution, but again the main obstacle was funding.

The answer proved to be a private fundraising corporation. The Naval Aviation Museum Association was established on 5 December 1966 and received tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Led by retired ADM Arthur W. Radford, a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Association could raise funds in support of the Museum unfettered by restrictions on official Navy activities. The Association contracted with a New York architect, Paul K.Y. Chen, to begin preliminary design on a new Museum building in 1967. In June 1970, CAPT Grover Walker replaced James McCurtain as director of the Museum, and Radford and Walker reviewed the proposed design for the new facility. Although it appeared modern and stylish, Radford pointed out that it would not lend itself to expansion as the years went on. He wanted Walker and Chen to get together and come up with a design which could be built in increments to expand with a continually growing collection. The result was a five-phase design, using pre-engineered steel, which could be built in modules as needed.

The Naval Aviation Museum Association accepted the design and set about raising funds nationwide to begin construction of Phase I, which would cost $4 million.

Phase I was dedicated and delivered to the Navy on 13 April 1975, debt-free and paid for in full. A column-free structure enclosing 68,000 square feet, the new building was a far cry from the old. Still, only a fraction of the total aircraft collection could be housed inside, with the others stored in hangars along the air station’s seawall or outside behind the Museum, exposed to the corrosive effects of the Gulf’s salt air, rain and sun.

Nothing builds success like success, and the new Museum, coupled with the inspiring vision for its future, brought in ever-increasing financial support from private individuals and industry. The mission of the Association was expanding, and the organization’s name was changed to the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. With the new name came a bold, new mission statement: “To foster and perpetuate the Naval Aviation Museum as a medium of informing and educating the public on the important role of United States Naval Aviation and to inspire students undergoing naval flight training to complete the program and become career officers; to inspire young people to develop an interest in Naval Aviation; to serve as a philanthropic corporation in assisting
the development and expansion of the facilities of the Naval Aviation Museum; to receive, hold and administer gifts received ... in the best interests of the Naval Aviation Museum; and to do any other business, act or thing incidental to and necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation ...."

Under the leadership of former Chief of Naval Operations and Joint Chiefs Chairman ADM Thomas Moorer, the Foundation turned its attention to further additions to the Museum's infrastructure. Phase II, completed in 1980, added appendages to the north, east and west sides of the octagonal floor layout and brought the Museum's total area to 110,000 square feet, at a cost of $1 million.

In May of that year, the Museum Foundation launched its magazine, *Foundation*. The biannual journal of Naval Aviation history has grown exponentially in popularity ever since. The scope of the publication has been gradually refined over the years, and it has become widely known in the historical community as an excellent source of first-hand accounts from the men and women who made Naval Aviation history. *Foundation* signified the growing identity of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation as more than just a fund-raising organization — it was now reaching out beyond the walls of the Museum and touching lives around the world, military and civilian alike.

Through the efforts of the Foundation's leaders during the late 1980s — ADM M.F. “Mickey” Weissner and RADM George M. “Skip” Furlong — along with the Museum's new director after 1987, CAPT Robert Rasmussen, Phase III was successfully completed in 1990. This phase added a second octagonal module to the original of Phases I and II. The modules were joined at their apex by the square, 75-foot-high Blue Angel Atrium. This addition brought the total space of the Museum to 250,000 square feet, at a cost of $10.5 million.

The additional exhibit and work spaces allowed for a more robust approach to acquiring aircraft, and in the late 1980s the Museum became active in the search for and recovery of naval aircraft wherever they could be found. Several rare aircraft were recovered from the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean, including the only surviving Vought SB2U *Vindicator*, now fully
restored and on display. Among the other noteworthy aircraft recovered from the depths is a rare SBD-2 Dauntless that participated in the Battle of Midway.

With the creation of a deputy director post in the Museum in 1990, the full-time curatorial staff set about a shift in their philosophy of exhibit design, incorporating greater emphasis on personal memorabilia, uniforms, equipment and weapons into the displays of naval aircraft and powerplants. Out of this new approach came such exhibits as “Home Front USA,” “Pacific Air Base” and “The Hangar Bay.” These three exhibits give visitors an opportunity to walk through a small-town Main Street circa 1943, a US Marine Corps expeditionary airfield during the Guadalcanal campaign and the hangar bay and below-deck spaces of a World War II jeep carrier, respectively.

In 1989, the National Museum of Naval Aviation Volunteer Organization was formed and has steadily grown in size and involvement. Volunteers began conducting guided tours of the Museum in 1990, to overwhelming positive response, and they are now considered an indispensable part of the Museum’s public appeal and educational mission. Many of the volunteers are retired or active duty personnel who bring their invaluable experience and time to the Museum. Their stories and insights bring life to the static displays.

In November 1992, the Emil Buehler Naval Aviation Library opened its doors inside the Museum. Staffed by professional librarians and volunteers, this new facility made accessible thousands of documents and records which for years had accumulated in storage, un inventoried and in disarray. Over time, the library’s collection has grown to include more than 7,000 volumes, ranging from personal memoirs and aircraft carrier cruisebooks to historical works. The library’s photograph collection includes more than 350,000 images of aircraft, ships, people and historical events. All of this, combined with an extensive collection of letters, manuscripts, technical manuals and diaries, makes the Emil Buehler Naval Aviation Library one of the most complete sources of Naval Aviation information in the country.

Under the leadership of VADM Jack Phase III of Museum construction was completed in 1990. The top photo is an aerial view of the Museum during this period. The new west wing featured a replica of the island and flight deck of the World-War-II training carrier USS Cabot, shown under construction in the center photo. The Blue Angel Atrium was also added in Phase III. Shown above, this steel and glass structure is the site of hundreds of banquets, concerts, retirements and change-of-command ceremonies each year.
Fetterman, USN (Ret.), Phase IIIA, a four-part program costing $13.5 million, began in 1994. This expansion included a new entrance hall, the enormous bronze and marble monument “The Spirit of Naval Aviation” and the 534-seat IMAX® Naval Aviation Memorial Theater. Phase IIIA also brought about the premiere of *The Magic of Flight*, an IMAX® film created specially for the Museum featuring the Navy’s Blue Angels. Phase IIIA brought the total area of the Museum to 291,000 square feet. In 2010, *Hangar Bay One*, the newest expansion of the Museum was completed, adding another 55,000 square feet of exhibit space. The National Flight Academy’s Ambition, providing the world’s finest science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning experience to 7th through 12th graders, was completed in 2011 and opened its doors to the first inaugural class in 2012. Achievement in the fields of literature and academia have become hallmarks of the Museum and the Foundation. Since 1987, the Foundation has hosted an annual symposium in Pensacola to promote awareness of Naval Aviation history and to foster discussion of Naval Aviation within the contexts of history and current events. The symposium attracts several thousand visitors each spring and has featured such notable people as astronauts Eugene Cernan, Jim Lovell and Neil Armstrong, Medal of Honor awardees James Stockdale and Joe Foss, and former President George H.W. Bush. In addition to the panel discussions and social events, the symposium also includes the presentation of two awards sponsored by the Foundation: The R.G. Smith Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation Art and the Arthur W. Radford Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation History and Literature. Additionally, every two years a select group of individuals is enshrined into the Hall of Honor, which recognizes extraordinary achievement in Naval Aviation. This pantheon of heroes includes such greats as Patrick

Another major educational initiative undertaken by the Museum and Museum Foundation was the creation of the Flight Adventure Deck. Combining interactive displays with a regular staff of public school teachers, the Flight Adventure Deck works hand-in-hand with schools to teach students about gravity, lift, propulsion and a host of other basic principles involved in the science of flight, all in a fun, hands-on atmosphere. While this program has been enormously successful on its own, it has also served as a springboard from which to launch the Foundation’s next, even more ambitious educational initiative: The National Flight Academy. The Academy will be constructed in the next phase of Museum expansion, and it will provide students with a more intense and exciting educational experience in a summer-camp-like setting.

What started as one man’s vision to educate young aviators and endow them with a deeper appreciation of their heritage has evolved over the years into a steadily growing and expanding institution of national significance and of major economic importance to Pensacola. The Museum is now considered the leading tourist attraction between Orlando and New Orleans and one of the top 10 attractions in Florida, making Pensacola an ever more popular destination for out-of-town visitors. Through dynamic exhibits, educational initiatives, publications and research, the Museum has far surpassed the concept that fostered it.

The National Museum of Naval Aviation and the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation share a long and proud history. It is a history of challenges overcome by hard work and determination. Through it all, one vision has endured: that the proud history and traditions of Naval Aviation can be preserved for each new generation, and that the honorable men and women who have served our country can continue to offer their strength, zeal and experience to the community.
The old and the new come together in the Blue Angel Atrium, where a formation of Blue Angel A-4 Skyhawks hangs over a Blue Angel F/A-18 Hornet. The National Museum of Naval Aviation is home to aircraft from every era of Naval Aviation, from the first test planes to current fleet aircraft.

Director, National Museum of Naval Aviation

CAPT Sterling G. Gilliam Jr. is a native of Henderson, North Carolina and a graduate of East Carolina University. He was commissioned in 1983, after completing Aviation Officer Candidate School at NAS Pensacola, FL. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1985, and received orders to NAS Whidbey Island, WA to fly the EA-6B Prowler.

His fleet assignments include VAQ-138 deploying aboard USS Nimitz (CVN-68), the CVW-9 Staff as the Air Wing Landing Signal Officer (LSO) and VAQ-139 as a Squadron Department Head deploying aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70). CAPT Gilliam has commanded VAQ-141, VAQ-129, Carrier Air Wing Nine and The George Washington NROTC Unit in Washington, DC.

CAPT Gilliam’s other flying assignments include VAQ-129 where he served as an Instructor Pilot and Landing Signal Officer, Commander, Naval Air Forces where he served as the Force LSO. His shore assignments include the Joint Staff where he served in the Special Operations Division and later as Executive Assistant to Deputy Director for Current Operations (J-33). He also served as Chief of Naval Operations EA-6B and EA-18G Requirements Officer where he was the resource sponsor for all EA-6B readiness, sustainment, and follow-on platform programs.

CAPT Gilliam is a graduate of National War College and has also served as the as the Executive Assistant to the Director for Warfare Integration (N8F) on the Navy Staff. Retiring in 2013, CAPT Gilliam spent three years in the private sector before becoming the fourth Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum.

CAPT Gilliam has more than 4,600 flight hours and more than 1,300 arrested carrier landings. He is a Life Member of the Tailhook Association where he also served as a member of the Board of Directors and as President.
Past and Present Leaders of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation and the National Naval Aviation Museum

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Mr. William R. Murray December 1977–January 1980
Mr. F. Paul Thayer October 1975–December 1977
Mr. Thomas W. Moore September 1966–October 1975

**Executive Vice President, NAMF**
Vice Admiral Malcolm W. Cagle, USN (Ret.) September 1973–July 1984

**Museum Director**
Captain Sterling Gilliam, USN (Ret.) January 2016–
Captain Robert L. Rasmussen, USN (Ret.) September 1987–September 2014
A graduate of Phillips Academy, Mr. Bush enlisted in the US Navy as a Seaman 2nd Class on his 18th birthday, 12 June 1942. Receiving his wings and commission in June 1943 while still 18 years old, he was the youngest pilot in the Navy at that time. On active duty from August 1942 to September 1945 during World War II, Bush flew torpedo bombers off USS San Jacinto. For his courageous service in the Pacific Theater, Bush was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals. Following World War II, Bush entered Yale University, where he pursued a degree in economics. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1948. After his graduation, he and his family moved to Texas, where he worked as an oil field supply salesman for Dresser Industries. In 1951, he cofounded a small royalty firm, the Bush-Overbey Oil Development Company, and two years later he cofounded the Zapata Petroleum Corporation. In 1954, at the age of 30, he became cofounder and president of a third firm, Zapata Off-Shore. Zapata pioneered in experimental offshore drilling equipment. Following an unsuccessful bid for a Senate seat in 1964, Bush was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1966 from Texas’ 7th District. One of the few freshman members of Congress ever elected to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, he was reelected to the House two years later without opposition. Bush lost a second campaign for the Senate in 1970. During the 1970s, Bush held a number of important leadership positions. He was named US Ambassador to the United Nations and later became Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He also served as Chief of the US Liaison Office during the critical period when the United States was renewing ties with the People's Republic of China. In 1976, Bush was appointed Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Ronald Reagan selected him to be his running mate, and on 20 January 1981, Bush was sworn in for the first of two terms as Vice President. In 1988, Bush became the Republican Party’s nominee and the American people’s choice to be the 41st President of the United States. The President and Mrs. Barbara Bush are residents of Houston, Texas, and serve on the Board of Visitors of M.D. Anderson Hospital. They are members of St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, where Bush was a former vestryman. He is currently on the board of the Episcopal Church Foundation and serves on the vestry of St. Ann’s Episcopal Church in Kennebunkport, Maine. President and Mrs. Bush are the parents of five children: George, John (Jeb), Neil, Marvin and Dorothy Bush Koch. In addition, they have 14 grandchildren.
ADM Mark P. Fitzgerald, USN (Ret.)  
Chairman of the Board — Board of Directors

Admiral Fitzgerald was born in Winchester, Mass., and graduated from Northeastern University, Boston in June 1973. He was designated a Naval Aviator in October 1975. Fitzgerald flew the A-7E Corsair II during sea assignments in VA-195, Carrier Air Wing 17 and VA-105 embarked aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), USS America (CV-66) and USS Forrestal (CV-59). He commanded the VA-46 “Clansmen” aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), deploying with four days notice for Operation Desert Shield. He led the first Navy strike on Baghdad during the opening hour of Operation Desert Storm. During his career, Fitzgerald was assigned as Deputy Commander, Joint Air Force Component Commander for Provide Promise Yugoslav Operations and assistant commander for Deny Flight NATO operations. He assumed command of Carrier Air Wing 14 while deployed to the Persian Gulf aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) supporting Operation Southern Watch. Fitzgerald’s shore tours include VA-174 landing signal officer, Naval Maritime Intelligence Center, SPEAR and EA to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. He holds a master’s degree in aeronautical systems engineering from the University of West Florida and attended the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. Selected for flag rank in September 1998, Fitzgerald’s first flag assignment was Deputy Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command and commanded Joint Task Force Determined Response in Aden, Yemen. Assuming command of Carrier Group 8, he deployed with Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group during Operation Enduring Freedom. He served as Director, Air Warfare and then as Director, Naval Warfare, and as Commander, 2nd Fleet/Director, Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Center of Excellence. In December 2006, he began his last assignment as the Director, Navy Staff. As Commander, US Naval Forces Europe he was responsible for providing overall command, operational control and coordination of US Naval forces in the European Command area of responsibility. As Commander, US Naval Forces Africa he was responsible for providing overall command, operational control, and coordination of US Naval forces in the Africa Command area of responsibility. As Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Fitzgerald had operational responsibility for NATO missions in the Balkans, Iraq and the Mediterranean. Fitzgerald’s awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (4), Distinguished Flying Cross (with Combat “V”) (2), Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Air Medals and numerous individual, Campaign and Unit awards. He has logged more than 4,800 flight hours and has made over 1,100 carrier arrested landings from the decks of 13 aircraft carriers.
Vice Admiral Zortman is sector Vice President, Life Cycle Logistics and Support, for Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, a premier provider of manned and unmanned aircraft, space systems and advanced technologies critical to our nation’s security. Supporting sector strategy of “design anywhere, build anywhere, support anywhere,” Vice Admiral Zortman provides sector-level leadership of the full spectrum of logistics and product support functions. He is responsible for ensuring that the same excellence in integration now represented in design and production at Aerospace Systems is also fully exploited in anticipation and fulfillment of product support requirements. His most recent previous assignment was as sector Vice President, Global Sustainment, at the former Integrated Systems sector. In addition, effective July 18, 2009, he assumed the responsibilities of site manager of the Rancho Bernardo and Moss Point sites. He joined Northrop Grumman in January 2008, following a career in the US Navy, where he attained the rank of vice admiral. He served as Commander Naval Air Forces and Chief Executive Officer, Naval Aviation Enterprise. In this role, he led a combined team of more than 180,000 military, government, civilian and contractor personnel responsible for operations, readiness and full life cycle management of 3,800 aircraft and 12 aircraft carriers. His prior assignments include Commander, Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet; Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet; Commander, Task Force Fifty; Commander, John C. Stennis Battle Group; Director, Operations and Politico-Military Affairs; and XO to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has earned the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (4), the Bronze Star and the Air Medal. Zortman earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and completed a fellowship with the Chief of Naval Operations in Strategic Studies Group at the Naval War College. In addition, he has completed courses in executive business and strategic planning at the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and the University of North Carolina Business School at Chapel Hill.
Lieutenant General Thiessen was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in May 1974. His initial operational assignment was as an AV-8A Harrier Pilot in which he completed numerous deployments to both the Mediterranean Sea and Okinawa. In 1982, he was assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One in Yuma, Arizona, where he served as an AV-8 tactics instructor. Lieutenant General Thiessen held several operational billets, completed Naval Command and Staff College in Newport, Rhode Island, and served as assistant to the AV-8B program manager in Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, DC. In June 1991, he reported to MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he assumed command of Marine Attack Training Squadron 203. After relinquishing command, he returned to Washington, DC, to attend the National War College and was subsequently assigned as the Marine Requirements Officer in the Joint Strike Fighter Program office. His next assignment was Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group-13 in Yuma, Arizona. Lieutenant General Thiessen then reported to HQMC to serve in Aviation Plans and Policy Branch until July 2000, when he was appointed to the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Expeditionary Force Programs. When promoted to Brigadier General, he was assigned as Deputy Director of Operations, National Military Command Center. He then served as Inspector General of the Marine Corps. Lieutenant General Thiessen assumed Command of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan, in June of 2004 followed by two years as Commander, U.S. Marine Forces Korea and assistant Chief of Staff, U/C/J-5 United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea. In 2007, he returned to the United States, was promoted to Lieutenant General, and assumed the duties of Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters United States Marine Corps. Prior to his retirement in August 2012, Lieutenant General Thiessen served as Commanding General, US Marine Corps Forces Pacific.
Mr. Aviles was nominated on February 6, 2004, by President George W. Bush to serve as the Under Secretary of the Navy and was sworn in on October 8, 2004. Mr. Aviles previously served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller) from July 2001 until October 2004. As Assistant Secretary, Mr. Aviles developed financial management policy and directed the financial operations of the Department of the Navy. From 1995 to 2001, Mr. Aviles served as a professional staff member on the staff of the House Armed Services Committee and was responsible for defense budgeting and finance issues, as well as Navy shipbuilding and other procurement issues. Prior to working at the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. Aviles served for four years in the National Security Division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Executive Office of the President. He began his service at OMB as the budget examiner for Navy procurement and research and development programs and ended as the assistant to the division director responsible for the development of the defense accounts for the President’s Budget. Before joining OMB, Mr. Aviles served as a program engineer at the Naval Air Systems Command. He worked on various Tomahawk missile projects in the Cruise Missile Project. Prior to his government service at the Naval Air Systems Command, he worked as a production support engineer for the Standard Missile and Phalanx Gun programs. A native of Bryan, Texas, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. In 1993 he earned a master’s degree in business administration from the School of Business and Public Management at George Washington University. Mr. Aviles served on active duty in the United States Navy from 1983 to 1988 as a surface warfare officer and is an officer in the Naval Reserve.
Judge Collier, a native of Demopolis, Alabama, studied aeronautical engineering for two years at the University of Alabama before entering the Navy flight training program as a NavCad in April 1955. Designated a Naval Aviator, Collier served for more than 20 years before retiring as a lieutenant commander in 1975. During his career, he logged more than 5,000 flight hours in 19 different aircraft models—fighters, light attack, helicopters and transports, including 450 carrier landings on 10 different aircraft carriers. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War, having flown 140 combat missions in the A-4 Skyhawk during two cruises with VA-22, earning 11 air medals and the Navy Commendation Medal. While in the Navy, Collier received a bachelor’s degree in government (international relations) in 1969 from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, a master’s degree in political science in 1972 and a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of West Florida in 1975.

Following his retirement from the Navy, he attended Florida State University School of Law, graduated with a juris doctorate with honors in 1977 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in May 1978. He served as an Assistant State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida from 1977 to 1984. He was then appointed by Governor Bob Graham as a Circuit Judge for the First Judicial Circuit where he served until 1991. He is currently serving as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida having been appointed to that position by President George H.W. Bush in November 1991. His numerous awards include the Pensacola Professional Leader of the Year, the God in Government Award and the Kiwanis Club of Pensacola Civic Award. He is currently active in numerous other civic and professional organizations. Collier and his wife Beverly have three children and five grandchildren.
VADM Currier was the 28th Vice Commander of the United States Coast Guard. He hails from Westbrook, Maine, and was commissioned from Officers Candidate School in 1976. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1977. An alumnum of the University of Southern Maine, he holds a Masters in business from Embry-Riddle University. He is a 1996 graduate of the U. S. Air Force Air War College and holds Level III Acquisition Program Manager certification. During his career, VADM Currier stood the watch at six Coast Guard Air Stations. He was designated an Aeronautical Engineer in 1982. Other assignments have included Deputy Program Manager (Engineering) for the Coast Guard and Navy HH-60H/J joint helicopter acquisition at the Naval Air Systems Command, and Chief of SAR Operations & Director of Auxiliary for the Ninth Coast Guard District. VADM Currier served as Commanding Officer of Air Stations Detroit and Miami, then the world’s busiest air-sea search and rescue unit. Subsequently he was assigned as Pacific Area Chief of Operations, then Area Chief of Staff. Promoted to Flag rank in 2005, VADM Currier served as Assistant Commandant for Acquisition at Headquarters, then as Commander of the Thirteenth District in the Pacific Northwest. He assumed the duties of the Coast Guard’s Chief of Staff in 2009, later transitioning that position to the Service’s first Deputy Commandant for Mission Support. VADM Currier’s awards include the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Commendation Medal, Achievement Medal and others. He is a veteran aviator with more than 6,000 flight hours in Coast Guard and Navy fixed and rotary wing aircraft. He was designated the Ancient Albatross, or the longest serving Coast Guard Aviator on active duty. His professional recognition includes the Harmon International Aviation Trophy, the Alaska Air Command SAR Pilot of the Year Award, American Helicopter Society, Fredrick L. Feinberg Award and the Naval Helicopter Association SAR Aircrew of the Year, all awarded for rescue operations. VADM Currier retired from active duty in May 2014.
ADM Robert J. Kelly, USN (Ret.)  
*Board of Directors*

Admiral Kelly earned his bachelor of science degree from the US Naval Academy and his aeronautical engineer degree from the Naval Postgraduate School. He is also a graduate of the Navy Nuclear Training Program. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1961, and progressed through a number of command and staff assignments which took him throughout Europe and the Pacific. He accumulated more than 13 years commanding operational forces including command of the nuclear aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) and the United States Pacific Fleet. Significant positions in Washington included Vice Director of Operations for the Joint Chief’s of Staff, Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies at the National War College and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy, and Operations. His distinguished military career of 35 years included air combat in Vietnam as well as positions at the highest level in the operational forces and in Washington. After retiring from active naval service in October 1994, he served as executive vice president of the Wing Group. Based in The Woodlands, Texas, The Wing Group (now disbanded) was a leading developer of international power projects. The Wing Group had more than 10,000 megawatts in various stages of development in Colombia, Turkey, The People’s Republic of China, Thailand, Indonesia and The Philippines. He resigned that position in 1998. In March 1999, Admiral Kelly became the president and chief operating officer of Energetics, Inc, a wholly owned subsidiary of VSE Corporation. Energetics is a full service consulting company that provides technical and management support in energy supply, energy conservation and environmental management. He was also a member of VSE’s board of directors from 1994 until he retired from both positions in April 2005. He and his wife Caroline have three daughters and six grandchildren and reside in Pensacola, Florida.
General Nyland was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps under the NROTC program upon graduation from the University of New Mexico in 1968. In addition to attaining an MS degree from the University of Southern California, his formal military education includes the Basic School, Naval Aviation Flight Training (NFO), Amphibious Warfare School, Navy Fighter Weapons School (TopGun), College of Naval Command and Staff, Naval War College and Air War College. After being assigned to VMFA-531, General Nyland was ordered to Vietnam where he flew 122 combat missions with VMFA-314 and VMFA-115. General Nyland’s other tours included Instructor RIO, VMFAT-101; Squadron Assistant Operations Officer and Operations Officer, VMFA-115; and Brigade FORSTAT and Electronic Warfare Officer, 1st Marine Brigade. He also served as Operations Officer and Director of Safety and Standardization, VMFA-212; Aviation Safety Officer and Congressional Liaison/Budget Officer, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.; and Operations Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-24, 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade. He commanded VMFA-232, the Marine Corps’ oldest and most decorated fighter squadron, from July 1985 to July 1987. General Nyland subsequently served as section chief for the Central Command section, European Command/Central Command Branch, Joint Operations Division, Directorate of Operations (J-3), Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. In July 1990, he assumed command of Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG), Pensacola. Following his command of MATSG, he assumed duties as Chief of Staff, 2d MAW in July 1992, and assumed additional duties as Assistant Wing Commander in November 1992. He was promoted to Brigadier General in September 1994 and was assigned as Assistant Wing Commander, 2d MAW serving in that billet until December 1995. He served next on the Joint Staff, J-8, as the Deputy Director for Force Structure and Resources, completing that tour in June 1997. He was advanced to Major General in July 1997, and assumed duties as the Deputy Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He served next as the Commanding General, 2d MAW, MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina from July 1998 to June 2000. He was advanced to Lieutenant General in June 2000 and assumed duties as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. He next assumed duties as the Deputy Commandant for Aviation in August 2001. He was advanced to General and served as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from 2002 until his retirement from active duty in 2005. His personal decorations include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with eight Strike/Flight awards, and Joint Service Commendation Medal. Following his retirement he returned to Pensacola, Florida, where as an independent consultant he works for, among others, the Institute for Human Machine Cognition Pensacola.
Ms. Rub is vice president and general manager for Global Strike, a division of the Boeing Military Aircraft organization. In this role, she is responsible for the execution and growth of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, F-15 Strike Eagle, F-22 Raptor as well as the Direct Attack and Cruise Missile Systems weapons portfolios. Before assuming her current position in January 2013, Ms. Rub served as vice president and general manager of BMA’s Missiles & Unmanned Airborne Systems where she led a diverse portfolio of programs, including Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), Small Diameter Bomb (SDB), Harpoon, Aegis Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Kinetic Warhead, Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Seeker, A-160 Hummingbird, Unmanned Little Bird, Camcopter S-100 and Boeing subsidiary Insitu’s ScanEagle, and Integrator, among others. Prior to this assignment, she served as vice president, Weapons Programs, where she directed the missile programs. In previous years, she served as vice president of Integrated Missile Defense, director of Boeing’s Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Systems organization, program director for the Minuteman III ICBM Guidance Replacement Program, and chief engineer for the Minuteman ICBM Programs. Rub has served more than 30 years with The Boeing Company, holding increasingly responsible positions in engineering, finance and program management. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Sheldon Arts Foundation and the John Cook School of Business, St Louis University. She is a member of the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara, the honorary military society of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery, and past member of the National Academy’s Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board and Financial Partners Credit Union Board. Rub holds two B.S. degrees, one in finance and the other in statistics, from the University of California, Riverside, and is a graduate of the Executive Management Program at the University of California, Los Angeles.
Mr. Jay Ryan
Board of Directors

Mr. Ryan currently serves as Vice President of Finance for the South Florida operations of Enterprise Holdings, the most comprehensive service provider and only investment-grade company in the U.S. car rental industry. In this role, he oversees business management for the company’s extensive South Florida operations and is responsible for legislative affairs and compliance in the state of Florida. Enterprise Holdings operates Alamo Rent A Car and National Car Rental as well as its flagship Enterprise Rent-A-Car brand. The company and its affiliate, Enterprise Fleet Management, together offer a total transportation solution. Combined, these businesses — which include extensive car rental and car-sharing services, commercial truck rental, corporate fleet management and retail car sales — accounted for $17.8 billion in revenue and operated more than 1.5 million vehicles throughout the world in fiscal 2014. Ranked by Forbes as one of America’s Largest Private Companies, Enterprise Holdings is the world’s largest car rental company as measured by revenue, fleet and employees. Enterprise Holdings’ revenues also place the company near the top of the travel industry, exceeding many airlines and most cruise lines, hotels, tour operators and online travel agencies. Enterprise Holdings is owned by the Taylor family and headquartered in St. Louis. During fiscal 2014, Enterprise Holdings continued the expansion of its global footprint, particularly in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and acquired car share companies in Toronto and Denver to complement its car-sharing, vanpooling and car rental services. In addition, the company continued to be a major recruiter during 2014, hiring approximately 8,500 college graduates through Enterprise’s renowned Management Training Program. Jay began his career as an auditor with Coopers & Lybrand. He joined Enterprise in 1992, as an Internal Audit Supervisor at the company’s headquarters in St. Louis, responsible for establishing the company’s internal audit function. He was promoted in 1994, to Controller of the company’s Oregon operations, where he oversaw Business Management, Vehicle Repair and Operations and Risk Management. He returned to St. Louis in 1997, as Assistant Vice President of Business Management, assisting in the oversight of company operations in the Southeast United States. In 2002, Jay moved to his current role in South Florida, where he oversees Business Management, Vehicle Repair and Service, Risk Management and Facilities. He is also responsible for monitoring legislative issues that affect Enterprise in the state, and he leads the company’s South Florida Business Ethics team. Jay holds a degree in accounting from Marquette University and lives with his family in Coconut Creek, Florida. He has served on the boards of the Auto Rental Association of South Florida and Associated Industries of Florida and was Chairman of the National Safety Council South Florida St. Bonaventure Student Advisory Council.
Mr. M.G. Sanchez  
*Board of Directors*

Mr. Sanchez attended Boston College, Chestnut Hill, and the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and is Chairman of the Executive Committee of Florida Capital Group, Inc. and Florida Capital Bank, N.A. Until 1986, Mr. Sanchez was President and CEO of First Bankers Corporation of Florida, Pompano Beach, and was associated with The First Bankers and its subsidiaries as an officer and director since 1959. From 1986 to 1996, he served as President and CEO of The PBF Management Group, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in financial institutions. In addition until year end 1999, Mr. Sanchez served as President and CEO of Wahoo Bay Company Inc., providing expert testimony in matters involving financial institutions, and as managing director (Florida) of T. Stephen Johnson and Associates, an Atlanta based investment banking and consulting firm. In October 1997, Mr. Sanchez, and three business associates formed Florida Banks Inc. for the purpose of acquiring the First National Bank of Tampa. Upon completion of the acquisition the bank's name was changed to Florida Bank, N.A., after which, Mr. Sanchez served as Chairman of the Board of both Florida Banks, Inc., and Florida Bank, N.A. until 2004, when Florida Banks was sold to the South Financial Group. He has completed numerous American Institute of Banking courses and professional development seminars. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Warrington College of Business Administration, a past National President of the Risk Management Association, Philadelphia; past National President of Gator Boosters, Inc., the University of Florida; past Chairman of the Board of Trustees, member of the Executive Committee, and Chairman of the Finance Committee of Holy Cross Hospital; a former member of the American Bankers Association, National Commercial Lending Committee; Board of Directors, Miami Branch, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; Board of Directors of the Florida Bankers Association; Board of the Stranahan House Inc., Fort Lauderdale; and Governor's Advisory Committee on Regional Interstate Banking. He is a former Director at Large of the Alumni Association and former member of the National Alumni Council, the University of Florida; a former Case Leader and Lecturer at the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University; a former Lecturer and Discussion Leader at the Risk Management Association Loan Management Seminar, Ohio State University; a former Lecturer at the American Bankers Association National Commercial Lending School; a former Director of the Florida School of Banking, University of Florida; He is a former member of the Board of Directors of First Union Corporation of Florida and First Union National Bank of Florida (now Wells Fargo); former Chairman of the Board of TIBA Holdings (Switzerland), a Fort Lauderdale Real Estate Subsidiary; former Advisor to the Southeast Bank Fund Inc., Atlanta; and former member of the Board of Directors of Close Card, Inc., Atlanta. Mr. Sanchez has been a speaker and panelist at National and State conferences and programs on the subject of banking and lending. He has also appeared before Federal and State regulatory bodies on a variety of banking issues and has been interviewed by national and local publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The American Banker*, *The Miami Herald*, *The South Florida Sun Sentinel*, and *The Saint Petersburg Times*. He has been published in various professional journal periodicals and magazines including *The Western Banker*, *Bankers Monthly*, *The Journal of Commercial Bank Lending*, *The Michigan Investor*, *The Omega Report to Bank Management Lending and Review Business Publications*.
Mr. Patrick J. Finneran Jr.
Chairman of the Board Emeritus

Mr. Finneran, a native of Pensacola, Florida, graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree. He also holds a master's degree from East Carolina University, is an honor graduate of the Air Force Command and Staff College and a graduate of the National War College. He was inducted into the Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society. He is President and CEO of Sabreliner Corporation. Prior to holding this position he was Vice President and General Manager of US Navy and Marine Corps Programs for Boeing Military Aircraft and Missile Systems. He was responsible for the F/A-18, AV-8, T-45 and V-22 programs. He was also the Chairman of the Aircraft and Missile Systems Program Management Council and a member of the Boeing Program Management Council. Prior to this assignment, he served as Vice President and General Manager for the F/A-18 program. Finneran joined McDonnell Douglas in 1987 as Senior Representative for Program Development for the AV-8B Harrier program and later served as Vice President and General Manager of the AV-8 program. He was named Vice President and General Manager of Production Aircraft in 1995 and later became Vice President and General Manager of Market Development. Finneran is currently on the advisory council for Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Notre Dame. He is president of the James S. McDonnell USO and is a member of the Children's Miracle Network board of directors. He is a former Trustee for the Naval Institute Foundation, a member of the board of trustees for Fontbonne College and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the St. Louis County Fair and Air Show.
VADM Hoewing, a native of Keokuk, Iowa, was commissioned an ensign from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He flew the A-7E Corsair II light attack aircraft on multiple deployments to the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) on USS Constellation (CV-64) and USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), followed by multiple Mediterranean and Indian Ocean deployments on USS Independence (CV-62) and USS Forrestal (CV-59). VADM Hoewing was the Operational Test Director for the F/A-18 Hornet aircraft during its initial operation evaluation and later commanded VFA-81 embarked in USS Saratoga (CV-60) during Operation Desert Shield. Additional sea duty commands included USS Seattle (AOE-3), USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) and Commander Carrier Group SEVEN/USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) Battle Group. His shore assignments included multiple tours of duty in the personnel domain ranging from Bureau of Naval Personnel to the Office of Secretary of Defense. VADM Hoewing’s final active duty assignment was as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education), Chief of Naval Personnel. Admiral Hoewing’s current position is President and Chief Executive Officer, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, the private fund raising arm of the National Museum of Naval Aviation and the proposed National Flight Academy.
Adminal Arthur was commissioned in June 1957 and designated a Naval Aviator in 1958. After serving in VS-21 and VS-29, Arthur attended the US Naval Postgraduate School, followed by assignments in VX-I, USS Bennington, VA-55 aboard USS Hancock and VA-122. In July 1971, he reported to VA-164 as XO and assumed command a year later while again deployed in Hancock. During that tour, he completed more than 500 combat missions in the A-4 Skyhawk. His following assignments included a tour at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, CO of USS San Jose and CO of USS Coral Sea. Other significant assignments included Commander, CAG-7; Director, Aviation Plans and Requirements Division; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics); Commander, US 7th Fleet and Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Arthur’s awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal (3); Legion of Merit (4), one with Combat “V”; Distinguished Flying Cross (11); the Meritorious Service Medal; individual Air Medal (4); and the Strike/Flight Air Medal (47). He is the recipient of the Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Leadership Award from the Navy League. Arthur joined Lockheed Martin in 1996, and was appointed President of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Orlando, Florida, in July 1999, until his retirement. Arthur holds a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering and a master’s degree in administration. He and his wife Jennie Lou have four married children.
During his military career, Vice Admiral Bowman completed 250 combat missions in the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts, accumulated more than 4,500 flight hours in 50 aircraft types and logged in excess of 1,200 carrier landings. In assignments of increasing responsibilities, he commanded three air wings, as well as an aircraft carrier battle group. His final active duty assignment was as Commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet, where he was responsible for approximately 50,000 personnel serving in aircraft carriers and air squadrons throughout the Pacific and southwest Asia theaters. Bowman earned a bachelor of arts degree from Kansas State University and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1967. VADM Bowman's 35 years of naval service included a number of assignments in the Washington, DC, area involving congressional relations in support of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps defense issues. Initially heading the Senate Liaison Office of the Secretary of the Navy, he later was appointed the Chief of Legislative Affairs, responsible for the coordination of all Department of the Navy issues in the US House of Representatives and the Senate. He is a lifetime member of the Navy League of the United States and the Association of Naval Aviation. He also serves on the board of directors of the Tailhook Association. He has received numerous military citations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. Vice Admiral Bowman retired as Senior Vice President of the Washington Operations of DRS Technologies, Inc. He joined the company in February 2001. Bowman's leadership skills and experience in legislative and congressional support assisted DRS in forging important inroads for the achievement of the company's strategic planning initiatives and long-term goals for growth.
Rear Admiral Boyington currently serves as Vice President and General Manager, Aviation and Logistics at DRS Technologies. Prior to this, he was at L-3 Communications Integrated Systems as the Vice President of Federal Programs in 2003. Boyington, a native of Pensacola, Florida, spent 33 years with the US Navy before retiring from active duty. He began his military career as an Army warrant officer flying more than 600 combat missions in helicopter gunships during the Vietnam conflict. Upon completion of his Army tour, he attended the University of West Florida, earning a bachelor of science degree in 1972. In January 1973, he entered the Navy and was designated a Naval Aviator in December. He first served with VP-56, where he deployed to Sigonella, Sicily and Keflavik, Iceland. During his subsequent tour as a P-3 flight instructor in VP-30, he was selected to attend Naval Test Pilot School. Following graduation, he was assigned as a fixed and rotary wing test pilot and project officer for the E-2, S-3, P-3, UH-1 and C-12 aircraft, as well as NASA’s QSRA and tilt rotor aircraft flight test programs. In June 1981, he reported to the Naval Post Graduate School, earning an MS degree in aeronautical engineering. He served with VP-4 as safety, maintenance and operations officer; as XO of VP-31; XO/CO VP-50; and on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (N88) prior to attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, receiving a master of science degree in national resource management. In 1994, Rear Admiral Boyington reported to Kami Seya, Japan, as Commander, Patrol Wing ONE, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force FIFTH Fleet, before assuming duties as Commander, Iceland Defense Force and Island Commander Iceland (NATO) in August 1996. He reported aboard as Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Atlantic, in May 1998 and subsequently served as Chief of Naval Air Training and Commander of Navy Region South until his retirement in 2003. Rear Admiral Boyington has more than 8,000 flight hours in more than 82 types of aircraft and 600+ combat missions. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star with Combat V, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Air Medal (25 strike devices), Navy Commendation Medal (3), numerous service ribbons and the Commander’s Cross with Star of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon presented by the President of Iceland. He and his wife Sue reside in Waco, Texas and have two children.
Mr. Brewster, of Gainesville, Florida, is an independent businessman whose photograph and biography have been withheld at his request.
Phil Burkholder is the President, Defense Aerospace, North America where he is accountable for growing and delivering the Rolls-Royce North America Defense business. In this role he is also part of the Global Defense leadership team and assists with strategy and delivery globally.

Prior to this role Burkholder was Executive Vice President, Engineering and Technology for the Defense Sector of Rolls-Royce plc. Rolls-Royce is a global provider of defense engine products and services with 18,000 engines in service for 160 customers in over 100 countries. These engines power aircraft in all key market areas: transport, combat, reconnaissance, training, and helicopter.

From 2005 to 2010, Phil was the Chief Operating Officer of Rolls-Royce North American Technologies, Inc., also known as LibertyWorks®, where the focus is advanced and innovative technology enabling solutions for the customer.


He has contributed to the propulsion system solutions for aircraft such as the V-22 Osprey, C-130J, Cessna Citation X, Embraer RJ-145, RQ-4 Global Hawk, SAAB-2000, the F-35 Lightning II, T-45 Goshawk, A400M Atlas, Harrier, Bell 407, and others. He has five patented inventions.

Burkholder graduated summa cum laude from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. In 2006, he completed The Executive Program from the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration.

He is a chartered engineer and a Royal Aeronautical Society Fellow. He is also an Associate Fellow in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He currently serves on the board for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. He served on the Virginia Tech Advisory Board for the College of Engineering 2008-2012, in addition to serving on the board for the University of Virginia Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He is active in his community and serves on the board of his local church.
Vice Admiral Buss is president of Cubic Global Defense (CGD) and senior vice president of Cubic Corporation, a global leader in the defense and transportation industries. He oversees and manages the overall CGD business, which spans across more than 35 nations. In this role, Buss is responsible for executing the strategy for Cubic’s defense business, which is focused on identifying and rapidly integrating innovative technologies into defense training systems and services to provide customers with cutting-edge means to ensure the operational readiness of US military and partner nation security forces. Buss joined Cubic Global Defense as senior vice president and deputy president in 2015 following more than 36 years of service in the US Navy. He retired from in the rank of Vice Admiral, after serving for more than two years as Commander, Naval Air Forces (Navy’s “Air Boss”). During his time as the Air Boss, Buss was responsible for all policies, requirements, training and operational readiness for Naval Aviation. Prior to his role as Air Boss, Buss served as the Deputy Commander of US Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, and Commander, Task Force 20, where he was responsible for training and certifying all east coast Navy ships and squadrons as deployment-ready. Other command assignments include the USS Enterprise Carrier Strike Group, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74), the fast combat support ship USS Sacramento (AOE-1) and Attack Squadron Thirty-Four. Buss ran the Naval Warfare Integration Group, a Pentagon-based strategic think tank and also served for 14 months in Baghdad, Iraq, as Director of Strategy/Plans/Assessments for Multi-National Force – Iraq in 2008-09. Buss graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1978. His executive education includes Wharton Business School. In addition to his role at Cubic Corporation he serves as an independent director on the board of West Pak Corp. He is active in military outreach and philanthropic efforts in the San Diego community.
Bennett Croswell is president of Pratt & Whitney’s Military Engines business, where he oversees development, production and support of the company’s military offerings including the 5th generation F119 and F135 engines for the F-22 and F-35 fighters, the F100 for the F-15/F-16, the F117 for the C-17, the PW4062 for the KC-46A, as well as development of the engine for the B-21 bomber and the Small Military Engine and Advanced Engine Program sectors. Prior to his current role, Bennett held the position of vice president, F135/F119 programs. In this role, he was responsible for all activities associated with the F135 and F119 engine programs. He also led Pratt & Whitney’s Maintenance Data and Support Equipment team in supporting all military and commercial product lines and providing customers with innovative and cost-effective maintenance solutions. Bennett joined Pratt & Whitney in 1979. Previous leadership roles include Vice President, Military Development Programs; and Vice President Advanced Programs & Technology. During his career with Pratt & Whitney, Bennett has been part of three Collier Trophy Award winning teams. The first came in 2001, for the development of the Integrated Lift Fan Propulsion System for the JSF Program. The second award came in 2006, for the successful fielding of the F-22 Raptor. The most recent was in 2014, for the X-47B Unmanned Combat Air System demonstration. He earned a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Tennessee, and a MBA degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He also graduated from the Defense Systems Management College in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Bennett has authored several papers published by technical societies. He is the Chair of the University of Tennessee College of Engineering Advisory Board. Pratt & Whitney is a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of aircraft engines and auxiliary power units. United Technologies Corp., based in Hartford, Connecticut, provides high technology products and services to the building and aerospace industries.
CAPT Robert Curbeam, USN (Ret.)
Trustee

Captain Curbeam serves as Vice President of Mission Assurance and Quality for Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems (IDS). He is responsible for the development and integration of Raytheon’s Mission Assurance road map, execution of the Quality Management System and continuous improvement across the business. He provides leadership across all levels of Raytheon to ensure flawless program execution and total customer satisfaction. Curbeam is a proven leader in quality assurance, business management and customer relations. Before joining Raytheon, he was president of the Aerospace and Defense Division for ARES Corporation, responsible for business development and driving profit for nine operations. Prior to ARES, Curbeam was an astronaut with NASA. He held a wide range of positions with NASA including Director of Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance for the Constellation program, Deputy Director of Flight Crew Operations; and Spacecraft Communicator (CAPCOM) branch chief. He was second-in-command for safety across NASA, as the Deputy Associate Administrator of Safety and Mission Assurance at NASA headquarters. During his tenure with NASA, CAPT Curbeam served on three space shuttle missions and seven spacewalks. Curbeam retired from the US Navy after 23 years of service. He is a graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) and Navy Test Pilot School; was lead Project Manager Officer for the F-14 Air-to-Ground Weapons Separation Flight Test Program; and logged more than 3,000 flight hours in 25 different aircraft and spacecraft. Curbeam holds an advanced degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering and a MS degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. He received his bachelor’s degree with merit in aerospace engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.
CAPT Charles Ellis Jr., JAGC, USN (Ret.)

Corporate Secretary

A graduate of the University of the South with a bachelor’s degree in political science, Vanderbilt University School of Law with a J.D. and from George Washington University with an LL.M. in labor law, Ellis served 30 years in the United States Navy. During his career he served as CO of the largest military legal office in the Department of Defense, providing legal services to more than 300,000 military personnel and their dependents. He also served as senior legal adviser to: Commander, United States 6th Fleet; Commander, Naval Surface Force, US Atlantic Fleet; Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Fleet; Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Command; and Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic. He is currently one of the Foundation’s four corporate officers and is responsible for all contracts, corporate submissions, compliance with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to Foundation operations and personnel policies and decisions. He is a guest lecturer at the United States Naval Academy, Navy War College, the Army Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, Naval Justice School, Army Justice School, Air Force Justice School and the US Air Force Academy. He and his wife, Commander Shirley Ellis, MSC, USN, a Navy psychologist, own and operate a ranch in the Pensacola area and raise registered Appaloosa horses.
Rear Admiral Furlong enlisted in the Naval Air Reserve in 1948 and served as an aviation machinist prior to attending the US Naval Academy. He graduated in 1956 with a degree in naval science and received his wings in 1957. He is a graduate of the US Naval Post Graduate School (aeronautical engineering). During his 30-year Navy career, Furlong flew many aircraft, including the F-11 Tiger, A-4 Skyhawk, F-4 Phantom II and F-14 Tomcat, accumulating 4,500 accident-free flight hours and 930 carrier landings during 10 overseas deployments. During the Vietnam War, he flew more than 220 combat missions in the F-4. He served in shore and sea billets of increasing responsibility including command of a fighter squadron, attack carrier air wing, USS Ponchatoula and USS Independence. He was the officer-in-charge of the initial Navy and Pacific fleet operational introduction of the F-14 Tomcat. In addition to serving as Chief of Staff, US 6th Fleet, he served as Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, US Pacific Fleet. His last assignment was as Deputy Chief of Naval Education and Training, Pensacola. After his retirement from active duty in 1986, Rear Admiral Furlong assumed the position of Executive Vice President of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. In this position, he traveled throughout the United States as a spokesman for the Foundation and raised more than $36 million in support of Museum development. He retired from the Foundation in 1996, and for four years, served as the Director of Development for Baptist Health Care Foundation. He was “recalled to active duty” by the Foundation in late-2001, and is currently raising the $36 million necessary to fund the Phase IV Museum expansion and the National Flight Academy. He holds an honorary doctorate from National University at San Diego, California. He was the recipient of the National Navy League John Paul Jones Award for inspirational leadership. He is proud for having brought the USO back to the Pensacola area in the mid-80s. He is a member of the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame, the Golden Eagles, the Association of Naval Aviation, the United States Naval Institute and Rotary International. He is also an honorary Silver Eagle and served on the Board of Trustees of AmSouth Bank of Florida for 20 years. He was a local aerobatics pilot for years. He served as a active participant with numerous local charitable organizations and remains active in a number of area charitable endeavors. He and his wife Ry have two sons and three grandchildren.
Rear Admiral Grant is Executive Vice President and CEO of Municipal Code Corporation in Tallahassee, Florida. A graduate of the US Naval Academy, he reported to NAS Pensacola, Florida, for flight training in 1966. Upon completion of flight training, he reported to VA-45 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, for initial training in the A-4 Skyhawk aircraft. He served in VA-34, VSF-1 and VT-7 and deployed in USS Forrestal, and USS Yorktown. He attended law school at Florida State University College of Law and Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island. In January 1975, Grant reported to Naval Legal Service Office, Pensacola, Florida, for his first tour of duty with the Navy Judge Advocate General Corps. While attached to the Naval Legal Service Office, he served concurrently as Staff Judge Advocate for Commander, Training Air Wing 6. From there he transferred to NAS Whiting Field, Florida, where he served as station legal officer and Staff Judge Advocate for Training Air Wing 5 from September 1976 to September 1978. His next assignment was as the executive officer of Naval Legal Service Office, Corpus Christi, Texas, from September 1978 to June 1981. From June 1981 to June 1984, he served as Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Management and Plans) and Assistant Deputy Commander (Management and Plans), Naval Legal Service Command, Washington, DC. From June 1984 to July 1987, he served as Force Judge Advocate for Commander, Naval Air Force, US Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Virginia. In July 1987, he assumed command of Naval Legal Service Office, Norfolk, Virginia, and served in that position until July 1989. In July 1989, he reported to the Office of the Commander, Naval Legal Service Command, Alexandria, Virginia, for duty as Vice Commander and Assistant Judge Advocate General for Operations and Management. From July 1990 through July 1991, he was assigned to the Pentagon as Executive Assistant to the Judge Advocate General. On 15 August 1991, he assumed command of the Naval Investigative Service Area Command Atlantic and served in that position until February 1993. Grant assumed duties as the Acting Judge Advocate General on 1 October 1993 and was confirmed by the US Senate as Judge Advocate General in March 1994. He served as the Judge Advocate General until his retirement on 1 July 1997. Grant is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of Florida and the United States Court of Military Appeals. He includes among his awards the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three gold stars, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star. Grant is married to the former Katherine Ann McClure. They have one son, William Eric.
CAPT Keith Hoskins, USN (Ret.)

Trustee

Captain Hoskins is a native of Parkville, Missouri. He graduated from Missouri Western State University with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering technology in 1988. He was commissioned after completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School in September of 1989, and was designated a Naval Aviator in February of 1992, in Kingsville, Texas. Hoskins’ sea assignments include duties in VFA-86 “Sidewinders” onboard the USS America (CV-66), where he flew several combat missions in support of Operations Decisive Edge and Southern Watch. He later served with VFA-25, the “Fist of the Fleet” onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln. During his tour with VFA-25, he completed an extended deployment flying combat missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom. He completed his command tour with the “Valions” of VFA-15 onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Captain Hoskins’ staff assignments include duties at the Naval Military Personnel Command in Washington, D.C. for a one-year tour of duty as an assistant aviation commander detailer. He was an instructor pilot for the “Gladiators” of VFA-106. He was selected to the Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels as a demonstration pilot. During his Joint tour at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, he served as aide de camp to the Commander, United States Strategic Command. Other tours include serving as the 3rd battalion officer at the US Naval Academy, Commanding Officer of Strike Force Squadron 15 and as National Director of NROTC at Navy Service Training Command. Captain Hoskins’ last tour of duty was as Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola, Florida, during which he received the 2015 Commander in Chief’s Installation Excellence Award. His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Air Medal (three awards with combat “V”), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards with combat “V”), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), and numerous unit commendations and awards. After his retirement, he joined Gulf Power in June 2016, as its major accounts and military affairs manager, and in November 2016, he was selected as the company’s new Western District general manager. As the district general manager, Hoskins is responsible for the customer service and sales operations for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. He serves as a representative of Gulf Power on community boards and with government officials.
Mr. Humphrey is a 1968 honors graduate of LaGrange College and in 2010 was named to the LaGrange Wall of Outstanding Alumni, an honor afforded to less than 100 alumni since the college’s founding in 1831. He is a retired executive vice president and chief credit officer of the financial services segment of Fortune 250 Textron, which counts Bell Helicopter and Cessna Aircraft among its world class brands and the United States Marine Corps as its largest customer. With a 32 year public company career primarily in banking, commercial and corporate finance, Lew was involved in business transactions as large as $250 million in more than 70 countries in virtually every mature industry and continues to mentor senior executives in global financial services matters. A former Marine Corps F-4 and A-4 pilot and Vietnam veteran, he serves as a docent and is chairman of the volunteer advisory board at the National Naval Aviation Museum and is a member of the Quiet Birdmen, an ancient fraternal aviation order. Experienced in board, organizational improvement, strategic planning, training, six sigma, legal and governance matters, he has been chairman-elect and has chaired the audit and investment committees of the 501(c)(3) Wallace Community College Foundation board of directors, on which he has served since 2008. As a member of the University of West Florida Academy of Senior Professionals, he provides insight to the university on organizational and technical matters and mentors graduate students. Lew has been married to Carol Baker of Ashford, Alabama, since 1969. They reside in Pensacola, Florida, and have one son, Brian, who is a utility helicopter pilot in San Diego, California and various remote areas of Alaska. Appreciative of their life experiences and success, Lew, Carol and Brian support a number of philanthropic causes.
Rear Admiral Jones graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1975, with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He also holds a master of science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California, and is an Armed Forces Staff College graduate. Designated a Naval Aviator in 1976, early operational assignments include duty in HSL-32 and HSL-34. He also participated in the Personnel Exchange Program, flying with the British Royal Navy while assigned to 829 Squadron in Portland, England. Returning to HSL-34 as XO, he became CO in November 1992. Jones next served as air boss aboard USS Saipan (LHA-2). After Saipan, he joined USS Peleliu (LHA-5) as XO for a Persian Gulf deployment. In April 1998, he became CO of Peleliu, and completed a Western Pacific/Persian Gulf deployment. Staff and shore assignments include flight instructor duty in HSL-30, serving in the Secretary of Defense’s Office for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and duty on the CNO Staff as head of Operations, Plans and Political-Military Affairs in the Western Hemisphere. He also served as EA to the Deputy Commander-in-Chief/Chief-of-Staff, US Atlantic Fleet. Prior to Flag selection, he was director, Readiness/Warfare Requirements at ComNavAirLant. His initial Flag assignment was Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, and Naval Component Commander, United Nations Command in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Jones next assumed command of Amphibious Force, 7th Fleet, Commander Amphibious Group 1/CTF-76 in Okinawa, Japan. He also served as commander, Forward Deployed Naval Forces Expeditionary Strike Group (FDNF ESG). Prior to his last assignment as Commander, Naval Education and Training Command, he served as Commander, Naval Service Training Command and Commander, Navy Region Midwest in Great Lakes, IL. Rear Admiral Jones retired from active duty in 2010 and is currently Vice President, Alion Science and Technology. He and his wife, Tammy, reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
Mr. Thomas A. Kaye  
Trustee

Mr. Kaye is a senior solution architect for NVIDIA Corporation who has worked with computer graphics systems for nearly 30 years. The seeds of a life-long fascination with aviation were planted at an early age after watching his first airshow then building & crashing hundreds of model airplanes. Eye sight precluded a military pilot career but flight simulation was still an achievable alternative. Tom received both B.S. and M.S. degrees in aerospace engineering from The University of Alabama where he began developing 3D graphics for US Army helicopter flight simulators. This led to a software engineering position with Bell Helicopter Textron in Fort Worth, developing AMI Cobra and V22 Osprey flight simulators and avionics. Eager to gain a broader view of the larger aerospace industry, Kaye joined the pioneering technology firm Silicon Graphics as a pre-sales engineer and quickly found his calling being promoted to principle systems engineer, solution architect, and ultimately fusion technology manager. It was the start of an exciting 18-year ride that crisscrossed the fields of aerospace, broadcast video, and film production working onsite at NASA centers, aircraft manufacturers, all service branches, television broadcasters, and film studios. In his current role with graphics technology leader NVIDIA, Kaye has continued to focus on professional video I/O, large scale visualization displays, evangelizing emerging graphics technologies for the media and entertainment industry. He is a University of Alabama aerospace engineering and mechanics industrial advisory board member. The board provides real-world industry feedback to College of Engineering faculty related to proposed curriculum changes, hiring manager expectations, faculty research, student mentoring and freshman and graduate school recruiting. He currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife, Valerie, but is relocating to Pensacola, Florida, now that his son and two daughters are off to college.
Mr. Richard M. Kleberg III

Trustee

Mr. Kleberg is a native of Kingsville, Texas, a graduate of Texas Military Institute and Trinity University. He is president of SFD Enterprises LLC, a private investment company. Mr. Kleberg has served as the Chairman of the Board of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition (“S.A.L.E.”) Show & Rodeo. He has been associated with S.A.L.E. as a life member since 1972. He serves as a Director and Member of the Executive Committee and Past Presidents Committee. Mr. Kleberg has been involved in numerous business and civic organizations serving as Chairman of 1776 LLC, parent company of Mama’s Café’s, Trustee of Trinity University and Chairman and Trustee of King Ranch Family Trust. He currently serves on the boards of Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc. and Frost National Bank. Mr. Kleberg serves as Chairman of the Commissioning Committee for the USS *San Antonio*. He is active in civic organizations, including Rotary International, Navy League, The 100 Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Texas Cavaliers, UTHSC Advisory Council, Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital Foundation and World Affairs Council of San Antonio. Tres and his wife, Olive Anne, have three children, Anne Marie, Christina and Cardo along with five grandchildren.
Mr. Jim MacDougald
Trustee

Mr. MacDougald was born in Providence, R.I. and grew up as an “army brat” as his father spent a 25-year career in the US Army. Jim spent 17 years in the employee benefits division of a major insurance company specializing in group health insurance and corporate pension plans, becoming Vice President in 1976 at the age of 32. In 1982 he and his wife Suzanne established their own company that specialized in assisting employers in administration and compliance with employee benefits administration. Their company, ABR Information Services moved to Florida in 1987. In 1994, the company went public. In 1995, 1996 and 1997 Forbes Magazine named ABR as one of “The Best 200 Small Companies in America.” In 1998, Fortune Magazine named ABR as one of the “100 Fastest Growing Public Companies in America.” ABR grew internally to 1,000 employees in Palm Harbor, Florida, and added another 500 employees in six other states via acquisitions. It moved to St. Petersburg in 1998 and was acquired by Ceridian Corporation (NYSE:CEN) in 1999. ABR stock increased 1000% in the five years that it was a public company. MacDougald retired in 2000 and in 2001 invested in and became chairman of the board of Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc. the world leader in deep-ocean shipwreck exploration. Odyssey stock increased 1000% during his tenure as chairman. Jim has served on the Board of Trustees of numerous non-profit organizations including Academy Prep, USF Foundation, Eckerd College, The St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, The Salvador Dali Museum, the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts, The Special Operations Warrior Foundation, the International Council of the Tampa Bay Region, and The Rays of Hope Foundation. In 2009 Jim authored the best selling book, UNSUSTAINABLE: How Big Government, Taxes and Debt Are Wrecking America. Jim has an honorary doctorate from Eckerd College and is currently a trustee of the University of Tampa. He and his wife, Suzanne, have been married for 50 years and have two children and six grandchildren.
Vice Admiral Mazach is Vice President for Business Development at Northrop Grumman Newport News. Named to this position in 2004, he represents the Newport News sector in the corporation’s Washington, DC, office and is responsible for business development, marketing and customer relations initiatives. Prior to joining Newport News, Mazach was Director of Navy and Marine Corps Programs for the Integrated Systems sector in Washington, where he led the Navy IPT and represented the sector to all the Naval Aviation Programs. He joined Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems in 1999, as Deputy Director of Field Support Services in Cecil Field, Florida, and also worked at the company’s St. Augustine site establishing the Aircraft Product Support and Services organization in the Aircraft Early Warning And Electronic Warfare Systems business area. Prior to joining Northrop Grumman, Mazach served for more than 32 years in the US Navy as a Naval Aviator, flying a number of fighter and attack aircraft during his career. Prior to retiring with the rank of Vice Admiral as Commander, Naval Air Force, US Atlantic Fleet, Mazach was Director for Strategy and Policy, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC. He also served as Commander, Carrier Group Two, Deputy Director for Plans and Policy for the Commander in Chief, US European Command, Stuttgart, Germany and he commanded the USS America (CV-66) during Operations Desert Shield/Storm in 1991. Mazach received his bachelor of science degree from Vanderbilt University and attended numerous Defense Department Service Colleges. He serves as a member of the National Board of Directors for the Armed Services YMCA of the USA and is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Tailhook Association. Northrop Grumman Newport News, headquartered in Newport News, Virginia, is the nation’s sole designer, builder and refueler of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and one of only two companies capable of designing and building nuclear-powered submarines. Newport News also provides after-market services for a wide array of naval and commercial vessels, and has the capability to design, build and maintain every class of ship in the US Navy’s fleet.
Mr. McFall has more than 40 years of operational and investigative experience in commercial, military, corporate, and general aviation. He is available to consult on a variety of aviation topics in commercial or general aviation including accident investigation/reconstruction, development/assessment of proactive safety programs, safety auditing, and emergency response planning. His background offers a unique balance of accident investigation work on behalf of the military, an airline, and as an NTSB investigator. Mr. McFall is a former Naval Aviator and has served as a flight instructor for basic and advanced jet, squadron safety officer, air wing aviation safety officer and landing signal officer aboard USS Saratoga. He is a graduate of the Naval Post Graduate School. He served as pilot, flight engineer and FAA designated check engineer for Braniff Airways prior to joining the National Transportation Safety Board in 1983. While at NTSB, he served as an aircraft accident investigator, regional director/investigator, investigator and supervisor of investigators in aviation accidents including fixed and rotary wing general aviation, corporate jet/turboprop, regional/major air carriers conducted under both NTSB and ICAO Annex 13 rules, oversaw highway and railroad accident investigations and was an instructor of aviation accident investigation courses. He joined American Airlines in 1995, where he served as director of safety and environment, director of accident investigation and safety reviews, was responsible for major aircraft accident investigations and associated relations with the National Transportation Safety Board or equivalent international civil aviation authorities, emergency response, accident investigation and family assistance. He served as on-site team leader managing investigation and family assistance for airline accidents. He represented American Airlines at Pentagon following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. He was chairman, Air Transport Association Safety Council from 1997-98. He played a lead role in Air Transport Association development of international airline audit standards in cooperation with DOD, DOT and FAS. He was a member of International Air Transport Association (IATA) Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) Steering Committee and Advisory Group, lead auditor on more than 30 international and domestic codeshare airline safety audits to FAA/DOT/DOD standards and certified IOSA lead auditor/evaluator. He was founding chairman, OneWorld Safety Management Group (Aer Lingus, American, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Iberia, Lan Chile, and Qantas); co-chairman, Air Transport Association’s 1999 Operations and Safety Forum; chairman Society of Automobile Engineers’ (SAE) Aerospace 2000 Conference and Exposition; chairman, IATA Emergency Response Seminar; presenter at safety outreach programs in Chile and Argentina; and member and representative of American Airlines at IATA Safety Committee and Flight Safety Foundation International Advisory Committee. In 2003, he formed McFall & Associates where he consults in commercial and general aviation accident investigation and reconstruction and is an airline operational safety auditor.
Mr. J. Collier Merrill  
Trustee

Mr. Merrill is a graduate of the University of West Florida, with a bachelor of science degree in business management and was named the University of West Florida’s Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2000. His business interests include the Great Southern Restaurant Group, LLC, which owns and operates The Fish House and The Atlas Oyster House; and President of Merrill Land Company, a real estate development company specializing in condominium development along the Northwestern Gulf coast. He is currently on the Board of Trustees for the University of West Florida and Community Maritime Park Associates and serves on the boards of directors of the University of West Florida Foundation, Wachovia Bank, the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross and the West Florida Historic Preservation Board. Mr. Merrill served on the Board of Trustees for University of West Florida (Chairman); the Florida Board of Regents (Chairman, Legislative Affairs Committee); the Florida Arts Council (Chairman); the Florida Cultural Alliance (Art Education Hero); Florida Chamber of Commerce (Leadership Florida); the Northwest Florida Arts Council; the Pensacola Museum of Art (Trustee Emeritus); the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce (Excellence Award Winner as a Community Leader (2001), Emerging Leader (1995), Leadership Pensacola); the Home Builders Association of Northwest Florida (Past President); the National Society of Fund Raising Volunteers (Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser); and the boards of the Pensacola Junior College Foundation and Catholic Social Services. He is a member of Christ Church, the Pensacola Downtown Rotary Club (Paul Harris Fellow) and serves as a mentor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
CAPT Colleen Nevius, USN (Ret.)

Trusted

Captain Nevius was born at NAS Corpus Christi Naval Air Station in 1955, where her father was a Navy weapons flight instructor in T-28s following his combat tour in Korea. She graduated and was commissioned in May 1977, from Purdue University as a member of the second group of women midshipmen accepted into Navy ROTC. She was selected for pilot training in October 1977, where she flew the T-28, TH-57 and H-1 and was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1979. She was assigned with Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Karen Thornton, the only two women pilots to the sea duty component of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Six (HC-6) at NAS Norfolk, Virginia, to fly the H-46 Sea Knight's Vertical Replenishment mission. Last-minute Navy policy decisions resulted in the reassignment from a scheduled six-month deployment to the Mediterranean aboard USS Kalamazoo (AOR-6), to a shorter, less controversial one month “show the flag” cruise aboard USS Nassau (LHA-4). She and Thornton were subsequently assigned to 2-month NATO deployments aboard USS Savannah (AOR-4) and USS Milwaukee (AOR-2) flying passengers and cargo. Battle group escort duty aboard USS Kalamazoo in August 1982, took them through the Straits of Gibraltar for a brief turnaround in the Med. In 1983, Captain Nevius was the first woman pilot to graduate from US Naval Test Pilot School. Assigned to Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Directorate as lead pilot for H-46 and CH-53E helicopters, she completed more than 50 projects in a two-year assignment in the Attack Assault Branch. Assignment as Assistant Officer in Charge, HM-12 Sea Component flying the Vertical Onboard Delivery (YOO) mission, subsequently standing up HC-2 VOD Squad. She deployed with the CH-53E to NAS Roosevelt Roads in support of carrier training, and to the North Atlantic in support of NATO exercises. Captain Nevius resigned from active duty in May 1988, and was assigned as XO of the ASWOC at NAS Belle Chase in New Orleans. She then served as OIC of the C-12 detachment at New Orleans, then Blue and Gold Officer working for the Naval Academy. She retired May 2003. Captain Nevius is currently a middle school Algebra teacher. She is married to astronaut Captain Bill Readdy USNR (Ret), and they have three children.
Mr. Osterweil, who majored in psychology in college, came to Tampa in 1972, and worked as a city planner in the Model Cities program, helping minorities and lower-income people become more involved in economic development. Later he owned and was president of Securex, a Tampa security guard company that employed about 1,000 people. But he eventually returned to the thing he loved: collecting memorabilia. As a boy, Osterweil loved acquiring, trading and selling old coins, pictures or baseballs signed by pro players. After selling Securex in 1998, he formed Memorabilia Magic, which collects sports and entertainment memorabilia and sells it to charities for their live and silent auction fundraisers. The business has grown so much that it is one of the largest of its kind in the country and serves hundreds of charity events a year throughout the United States. He often goes to the events to help with setup and takedown. The charities and non-profits it helps include Ronald McDonald House Charities, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, All-Children’s Hospital and the Canterbury School. A lot of charities want items donated and Memorabilia does that sometimes. But its main business is selling memorabilia on consignment. That means that it sells an item, like a signed baseball, at cost plus overhead. The charity then auctions that item and keeps the difference.
Ms. Nancy W. Pearson
Trustee

Ms. Pearson is President and Founder of HarborCrest International. She has more than 25 years experience in executive recruitment and assessment. She has conducted numerous executive searches, market scans, and executive leadership assessment assignments in all functional capacities. Her work spans a wide range of industrial and consumer manufactured products businesses. Ms. Pearson’s client relationships include Fortune 20, mid cap businesses and emerging growth companies. Functionally, Ms. Pearson has led searches for a broad spectrum of functions including CEO’s, board of directors, global executive leadership and general management. She has also gained significant experience working across global accounts to provide human capital solutions. Ms. Pearson has worked with clients in succession planning for their next CEO, leading confidential research activities to provide Fortune 100 companies the opportunity to benchmark their internal succession candidates against best in class candidates from industry. Previously, Ms. Pearson spent 13 years with Korn/Ferry International where she served as a senior client partner. Before joining Korn/Ferry, Ms. Pearson was a director with A.T. Kearney. Prior to entering the executive search industry, she was a senior financial analyst for The New York Times Company and Burson-Marsteller, Inc., where her responsibilities included strategic planning, staffing and compensation analysis. Ms. Pearson received her Bachelor’s Degree in business administration, magna cum laude, from C.W. Post College and is currently pursuing her executive education in management, innovation and technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — Sloan School of Management. Ms. Pearson is an alumnus of the Board of Directors’ College Program at Stanford University Law School. She is a member of the Women in Aerospace Association. Ms. Pearson is a member of the New York Yacht Club and Noroton Yacht Club where she has served on the Board of Directors. She won the 1993 United States Women’s Sailing Championship, The Adams Cup. Additionally, she served as a Race Management Specialist with responsibility for the Men’s and Women’s 470 Class Finish Line for the 1996 Olympic Games.
Vice Admiral Ramsey graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1953 and reported to the USS Glynn before entering flight training. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1955 and served consecutive tours with VF-61, VF-84 and VA-43 in USS Lake Champlain, USS Forrestal and USS Randolph. He attended the Naval Test Pilot School in 1960. As a Carrier Suitability Project Pilot he became the first pilot to make a nose-tow catapult launch from a carrier; perform and set catapult end speeds for the F-4 and E2C aircraft; conduct carrier based turbo-prop landings and catapults; and initial single engine landings aboard ship in both the F-4 and E-2C aircraft. He was a finalist for the Ivan C. Kincheloe Society of Experimental Test Pilot Award in 1962. In 1962 and 1963 he was in the final group of pilots interviewed by NASA for the Gemini and Apollo programs. In 1963 he reported as flag secretary to COMCARDIV SIX prior to attending the Royal Air Force Staff College. He then served as Operations Officer of CAG-6; XO/CO of VA-66; and embarked in USS Intrepid in 1968 leading the squadron into combat, where they flew more than 4,800 hours in six months. He was selected for the Naval Nuclear Power Program and completed qualification in 1970. Following assignments included tours as XO of USS Independence; OPNAV Office of Program Appraisal; CO of USS Pensacola; and the Admiral Halsey Chair of Air Warfare at the Naval War College. In 1975 Ramsey was assigned as the first CO of USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. He then assumed command as COMCARGRU ONE and deployed to the Indian Ocean in USS Constellation. In 1980, he established the Naval Space Systems Division in OPNAV and became the first Director prior to becoming the first Deputy CINC US Space Command upon activation of the unified command in September 1985. Vice Admiral Ramsey retired from active duty in 1989 and became VP, Space Division for CTA, Inc. He retired from CTA in 1996. Ramsey’s awards include the 1986 American Astronautical Society Military Astronautics Trophy — the first naval recipient; the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit (2); Bronze Star (2 combat V); Air Medal (3) and Strike/Flight Air Medal (11). He is currently a Trustee of the US Naval Academy Foundation; Central Flight Leader, Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association; President, Bayshore Condominium Association; vestryman; and a member on several Boards of Directors.
Captain Rogers, a native of Orlando, Florida, is a 1959 graduate of Stetson University. He taught public school prior to entering Officer Candidate School in 1960. He was designated a Naval Aviator in April 1962. Sea duty assignments included tours in Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 6, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 7 and Air Boss aboard USS Nassau. He is entitled to wear the Command at Sea insignia for command of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 12, Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 30 and Helicopter Sea Control Wing 1. Ashore, he served as a flight instructor in Helicopter Training Squadron 8; Aviation Rating Assignment Officer, Bureau of Naval Personnel; Executive Officer, NAS Key West, Florida; Commanding Officer, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas; and on the staff of the Chief of Naval Education and Training, Pensacola, Florida. He retired from the Navy in January 1988, after nearly 28 years of service, to join the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, where he served as Vice President for Communications. He is a graduate of the Naval War College and holds a master of science degree from George Washington University. Rogers was the 1978 recipient of the Navy League of the United States Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence. He and his wife Marilyn have a son, Jeff, a daughter, Kristin, and five grandchildren.
Mr. Ray Russenberger
Trustee

Mr. Russenberger founded Network Telephone Corporation in July 1998, after spending 13 years building a national paging company. He opened Network Paging Corporation in 1985 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Initially Network Paging provided regional paging services to the Gulf Coast from Houston, Texas, to New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1989, Russenberger relocated the corporate headquarters to Pensacola, Florida, and he launched Network USA, Inc. Two years later, Russenberger sold ties to Network Paging to focus exclusively on Network USA. As CEO, Russenberger’s goal was to create a nationwide paging network with a single frequency. By 1995, Network USA had become the nation’s largest network of independent private paging operators. Between 1989 and 1995 the company grew from 13 to more than 1,400 employees and was twice named one of Inc. Magazine’s 500 Fastest-Growing Private Companies in America (1994, 1995). In October 1995, Russenberger merged Network USA with A+ Communications, a publicly held paging company headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Today, A+ Network is part of MetroCall, Inc., the second-largest paging company in the US. After less than two years, Network Telephone revenues topped $10 million. Network Telephone is licensed by the FCC to service nine southeastern US states, where the company is aggressively deploying revolutionary voiceover digital subscriber line (VoDSL) technology.
A native of Pensacola, Sandy is a graduate of Pensacola High School, Pensacola Junior College and the University of West Florida, earning a B.A. degree in accounting. He received the first full golf scholarship offered by the University and was a member of the first full graduating class. He has been married to his wife, Peggy, for 39 years and they enjoy spending free time with their two children and five grandchildren. He has a long history of community involvement that includes the sponsorship of more than 55 little league baseball teams in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties and partnerships with WEAR-TV3 and local nonprofit organizations to support the Communities Caring at Christmas and Cram the Van outreach campaigns. He is a partner in education with several local schools and annually sponsors a middle and high school spelling bee. In addition, he currently serves or has served on many bank, business, and community boards. Sandy started a computer software and sales business in 1975, sold the company in 1980, and then entered the automobile business. He currently owns eight car dealerships in Pensacola, Florida, Foley, Alabama, Daphne, Alabama, and his latest is a Toyota dealership in Brookhaven, Mississippi.
ADM Leighton W. Smith Jr., USN (Ret.)
Chairman of the Board Emeritus

Admiral Smith, a native of Mobile, Alabama, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1962, and received his wings in 1964. As a Naval Aviator, he flew carrier-based light attack jets during multiple deployments to the Mediterranean, North Atlantic, Western Pacific and Indian Oceans. These deployments included three cruises in waters off North Vietnam, where he flew more than 280 combat missions. Smith, who has commanded at sea at all levels in the aviation community, including squadron, wing, aircraft carrier and carrier battle group, has logged more than 4,200 flying hours and 1,000 carrier arrested landings. His early flag officer tours include Director for Operations, US European Command, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations. As a four-star admiral, he became Commander in Chief, US Naval Forces Europe, and Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe. In 1995, he assumed, concurrently, command of the NATO-led Implementation Force, (IFOR) in Bosnia, a position he held until 1996. Smith’s military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (2), Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (3), Distinguished Flying Cross (2), Meritorious Service Medal (2) and Air Medals (29). He has also received the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary, the French Order of National Merit with the rank of Grand Officer and, on 5 March 1997, was made an Honorary Knight of the British Empire in a private audience with Queen Elizabeth II. Since his retirement in 1996, he has served as President of Leighton Smith Associates and Vice President of Global Perspectives, Inc., both international consulting firms. He is currently serving as a Senior Fellow at the Center for Naval Analysis, is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the US Naval Academy Alumni Association and serves on the Executive Committee of the Association of Naval Aviation. He is also on the National Advisory Council to the Navy League, the Board of Trustees of the Naval Academy Foundation and is a member of the boards of directors of several corporations.
A graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Sugden received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He served in the military at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute Flight Surgery Training program and at the Naval Air Test Center USN Test Pilot School, NATC and as a TPS Flight Surgeon. He did Residency Training at Baylor College of Medicine Affiliate Hospital in Houston, Texas. Dr. Sugden founded Teton Data Systems (TDS) after recognizing a need that physicians had for finding medical information quickly. Back in 1987, a fellow physician from Big Piney called Dr. Sugden for a consult on a pregnant patient with some unique symptoms. Although he suspected Lyme disease, he didn’t know the best course of treatment. Researching this took hours back then, thumbing through reference books. He thought, “this is ridiculous!” So, he wrote a program to make the info in Scientific American searchable on a Macintosh computer. These were the humble beginnings of STAT!Ref. Every year, more titles were added to the CD-ROMs and eventually TDS started offering STAT!Ref online. He’s currently a private practice family physician and has been practicing in Jackson, Wyoming since 1975. He also has a free clinic in Jackson and keeps busy providing care to patients. He provides guidance to TDS, and uses STAT!Ref daily in his practice. In his spare time, he likes to travel and fly his airplanes.
A native of Pensacola, Florida, Mr. Switzer graduated from the University of South Florida with a bachelor of science degree in zoology. He is Vice President of Operations for the Lamar Corporation, a family-owned business founded by Charles Wilbur Lamar in 1902, operating more than 100 advertising and logo companies in the United States and Canada. He joined the company in 1976 and is responsible for overseeing the daily operation of the outdoor division, product development in the graphics division and company production. His community involvement includes serving on the advisory board of the First Union Bank, Board of Directors of the Lakeview Foundation, Board of Directors of The Zoo, member of the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, Pensacola Rotary and the Outdoor Advertising Association of America. He and his wife Jane have three sons – Jeremy, David and Benjamin.
Mr. Taylor, who became involved in the automotive business 30 years ago, assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Rent-A-Car in 1991, and was named Chairman in 2001. Under Andy's leadership, the company, which was founded by his father Jack Taylor in 1957, has grown to become the largest rental car company in North America. Taylor began his career with Enterprise at the age of 16 in the original St. Louis office, where he washed cars during summer and holiday vacations and learned the business from the ground up. He continued his education at the University of Denver, receiving a bachelor of science degree in business administration in 1970. Following graduation, he opted to gain some initial experience outside of the family business and began working for RLM Leasing, a Ford Motor company affiliate in San Francisco. After three years at the company, Andy returned to the St. Louis area to work for Enterprise. In 1976, Taylor became the general manager of the St. Louis area. In 1980, he was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Enterprise Rent-A-Car. During his time with the company, Enterprise has increased its fleet size from 5,000 cars to more than 600,000 worldwide. Currently, the company has more than 5,000 offices internationally. Under the leadership of Taylor and through the ideas of employees, Enterprise implemented the service of picking its customers up and marketing to repair shops, insurance companies and policyholders whose cars have been damaged or stolen, sticking close to the niche it developed. Outside of his professional duties with Enterprise, Taylor plays an active role in the community. Taylor is past President of Civic Progress, an organization of 30 chief executives in St. Louis who work for improvements on a wide range of civic issues; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater St. Louis; Trustee of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra; Trustee of Washington University; Life Trustee of the Missouri Botanical Garden, which is the oldest botanical garden in the US and ranks among the top three worldwide; Director of Anheuser Busch companies; and Director of Commerce Bancshares. On a national level, Taylor is on the Board of Trustees of the National Urban League. In addition, Taylor formerly served as the 1996 Chairman of the United Way Campaign of Greater St. Louis; Trustee of John Burroughs School; Trustee of the St. Louis Science Center; and Trustee and Treasurer of KETC-TV, a public broadcasting station in St. Louis.
Mr. Waldman is Executive Vice President of Government and Customer Relations for Huntington Ingalls Industries, America’s largest military shipbuilding company and a provider of professional services to partners in government and industry. Named to this position in 2011, Waldman is responsible for leading the corporation’s engagements with Congress, the Department of Defense and all other federal offices and agencies and is directly involved in supporting company business objectives. He is based in Washington, D.C. Prior to this appointment and since 2009, Waldman served as Vice President, Business Development of Advanced Programs and Technology, for Northrop Grumman’s Aerospace Systems sector. In this capacity, he was responsible for shaping future architecture, advanced concepts and competitive opportunities for manned and unmanned aircraft, space systems and directed energy systems. Prior to this position, he served as Northrop Grumman’s Corporate Director for acquisition policy, responsible for coordinating the company’s efforts related to pending and upcoming acquisition regulations and policy at the US Department of Defense and other government agencies. Before joining Northrop Grumman, Waldman served as National Security Advisor for former Senator Trent Lott and as a National Security Consultant to the office of the Senate Majority Leader. Waldman has served in a number of executive positions for the US Navy, including Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Ship Programs), Director of Cost Engineering and Industrial Analysis for Naval Sea Systems Command, and Deputy Program Manager for Amphibious Warfare Programs. He has also served as Project Manager for the US Navy’s Small Boat Security Assistance Program and completed several senior-level staff assignments with the Navy and the Defense Department. Waldman earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Florida and a law degree from Catholic University. He is also a graduate of Yale University’s Executive Management Program and the Defense Systems Management College Program Managers course. He’s been honored with the US Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the State of Mississippi Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the D.C. City Council of Engineering Societies Architect of the Year award. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Shipbuilders Council of America and the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute. He is also a member of the Engineering Advisory Board for the University of Florida’s department of mechanical and aerospace engineering.
Mr. Walsh is president and chief executive officer of TRU Simulation + Training Inc., which offers flight simulation and aircraft training products to the global commercial, civil and military aviation training markets. In addition to leading TRU Simulation + Training, Walsh also serves on Textron’s Executive Leadership Team. Previously, Walsh was senior vice president and general manager of Textron Systems’ Weapon & Sensor Systems business where he created a high performance culture focused on international growth, new product development, margin improvement and teamwork. Prior to that, Walsh held several leadership roles at Textron Systems including Senior Vice President of Operations, and Senior Vice President and General Manager of Lycoming Engines. As Senior Vice President and General Manager of Lycoming Engines, Walsh increased the company’s profitability and led the business to achieve the International Shingo Silver Medallion for Operational Excellence, and shortly thereafter the Shingo Prize. Prior to joining Textron, Walsh served as an officer and Naval Aviator flying Cobra attack helicopters in the US Marine Corps from 1989 to 1996, with combat tours in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia. He is an active pilot with more than 1,500 hours of flight time and is commercially rated in helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. Walsh earned a bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College, an MPA degree from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and an MBA degree from the Harvard Business School. He has completed Textron’s Global Leadership Program at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and the Senior Executive Leadership Training at Duke’s Fuqua School of Business. Walsh is a life member on the Council of Foreign Relations. He is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt, one of Textron’s first Top Gun Black Belts and is recognized as one of the company’s Top Champions of continuous improvement.
Mr. Walz serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of VectorCSP. After taking the helm in 2006, he leveraged a strong career spanning more than 35 years in military and government logistics to dramatically improve both growth and profitability. His expertise in strategic leadership helps align Vector clients with proven tactical or business plans that boost performance levels. He is focused on optimizing each client's goals while managing the trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance. Under his watch, every employee is focused on each client’s success. He actively leads strategic programs that enable logistics transformations and acquisitions of critical aviation and surface assets. Walz played the lead corporate role in the restoration of a Coast Guard HH-52 helicopter for permanent display in the Smithsonian Museum at Udvar-Hazy. Before joining Vector, he held key positions that provided valuable insights into the unique challenge his clients face each day. As vice president for US Coast Guard Programs for Perot Systems Government Services, he developed and managed $140 million of logistics and information technology programs. Prior to that he was the Commanding Officer of a key Coast Guard Air Station, a US Department of Transportation Fellow, and worked with the Secretary of Defense and Department of Defense. Walz was a designated Navy and Coast Guard Aviator, worked at the Pentagon and at Coast Guard Headquarters, and served at multiple operational and logistics commands both CONUS and OCONUS. He holds an MBA from Corpus Christi State University, and earned a BBA from Saint Joseph’s College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Mr. Paul Wood  
Trustee

Mr. Wood is a co-founder and former Managing Director of Madison Dearborn Partners. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, Madison Dearborn is one of the largest and most successful private equity investment firms in the nation. From the firm’s founding in 1993 and prior to his retirement in 2006, Madison Dearborn raised and successfully invested four separate funds totaling more than $10 billion. From 1985 through 1992, Mr. Wood was a Vice President and partner at First Chicago Venture Capital, the private equity investment arm of First National Bank of Chicago. Mr. Wood began his business career in 1978 at Continental Illinois Venture Corporation of Chicago. After his retirement, Mr. Wood pursued a lifelong passion for aviation and founded the Warbird Heritage Foundation in Waukegan, Illinois. Warbird Heritage Foundation acquires, restores and operates military aircraft of historic significance and currently has 12 aircraft in its collection. Mr. Wood is an Airline Transport rated pilot with more than 6,000 hours of flight time including 1,000+ hours in military type jets. He is type rated in the KingAir C-90, Citation 525 (single pilot), the North American T28 Trojan, Aero Vodochody L-39 Albatros, North American F-86 Sabre, North American T-2 Buckeye and the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk. During the summer months Mr. Wood flies tactical demonstrations in the F-86 and A-4 at airshows primarily in the Midwest. In 2008, he was selected as a civilian member of the US Navy Tailhook Legacy Flight Demonstration team flying the A-4 Skyhawk in a formation flight routine with other vintage Naval aircraft and modern F/A-18 Hornets. Mr. Wood has been a Board Member of the Children’s Home and Aid Society of Illinois for more than 20 years and currently serves on the Executive Committee and as Chairman of the Society’s Foundation. He is also a volunteer pilot for the Veterans Airlift Command (VAC), flying wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans from military hospitals to their homes for convalescent visits. To date, he has flown more than 40 missions for the VAC. Mr. Wood graduated with honors from the University of Illinois and received his MBA from Columbia University in New York. He resides in Lake Forest, Illinois, with his wife Corinne (former Lieutenant Governor of Illinois) and has three children, Ashley, Brandon and Courtney.