

Garden of Remembrance



At the request of the aviation tenant community at Republic, airport staff has created a memorial garden that is a poignant remembrance of those prominent aviators and aviation enthusiasts who were part of the Republic Airport community. The airport will make available through

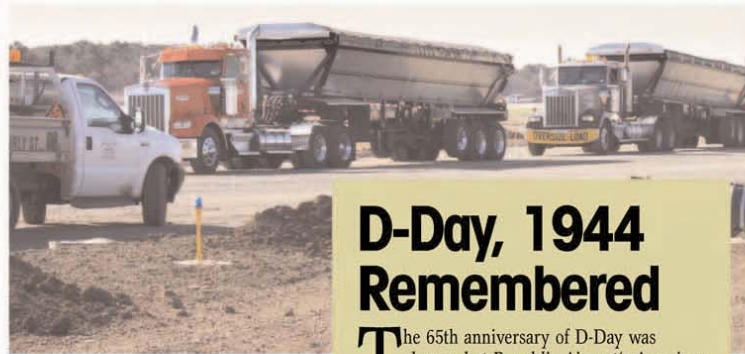
their website, www.republicairport.net, Pilot Information, Garden of Remembrance, an informational brochure with more information on how to sponsor commemorative benches, bricks and other items for the garden.

Photo credit: Dan Kours

Bravo Construction Goes On

Construction is well along on the relocation of Taxiway Bravo despite weeks of inclement weather. Adhering to FAA safety mandates and utilizing federal funding, the airport is relocating

the taxiway as part of a broader safety enhancement program, ensuring current ground clearance standards for aircraft are met. Phase I of the construction is expected to be completed this autumn.



D-Day, 1944 Remembered

The 65th anniversary of D-Day was observed at Republic Airport's American Airpower Museum where more than two dozen D-Day veterans who served in the Army, Navy, or Army Air Force were saluted for their courage during this seminal battle. They were greeted by airport officials and Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi. Among the vets was Ed Collins of Hicksville, a tanker who stormed Utah Beach at H-Hour of June 6, 1944. "I realized when I was on the ship in the English Channel that my Sherman tank wasn't with me and that meant I was being put ashore armed only with my rifle. That was some beach party," he ruefully told reporters.



Shelley LaRose-Arken greets the D-Day vets.

A Community Destination

The Farmingdale Rotary Club invited a delegation of German business visitors to join them at Republic Airport this spring where airport officials provided the delegation with a tour of air traffic control facilities and airport operations. It is part of a continuing Airport Ambassador program that is seeing Republic become a community friendly destination.

Also visiting the airport recently were kindergartners from the Buckley Country Day School, North Hills, who were welcomed by Airport staff and employees from Atlantic Aviation and Talon Air.



Have you checked out the Web?

To better provide the Internet community with news, information and updates regarding Republic Airport, the airport's website has been significantly improved. Be sure to log on at www.republicairport.net.

REPUBLIC
Long Island's Executive Airport



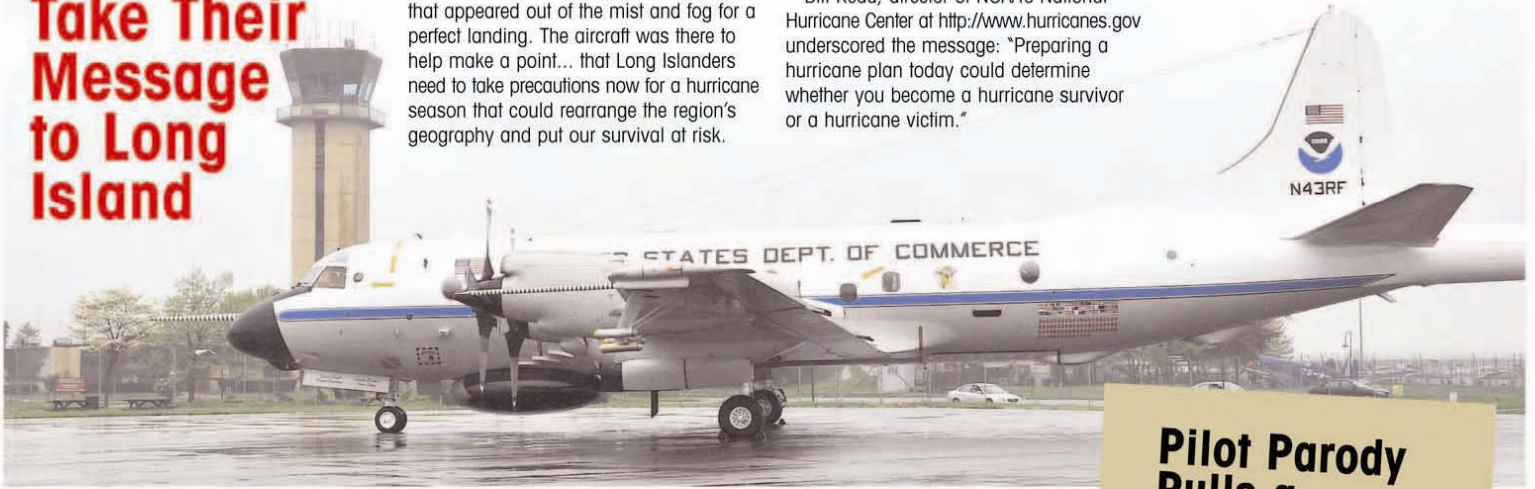
Hurricane Hunters Take Their Message to Long Island

Appropriately, severe weather experts from NOAA flew into Republic Airport during miserable weather in early May, aboard a powerful hurricane hunter; a converted Orion four-engine turbine prop, that appeared out of the mist and fog for a perfect landing. The aircraft was there to help make a point... that Long Islanders need to take precautions now for a hurricane season that could rearrange the region's geography and put our survival at risk.

In attendance were students from area schools who questioned hurricane hunter pilot, Lt. Commander Al Girmonte, a former Long Islander.

Bill Read, director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center at <http://www.hurricanes.gov> underscored the message: "Preparing a hurricane plan today could determine whether you become a hurricane survivor or a hurricane victim."

Photo credit: Republic Airport



Pilot Parody Pulls a Couple of G's

Steven Colbert of the Colbert Report kissed the ground at Republic Airport after a filmed media flight with the Thunderbirds. Internationally known for his straight-faced parody of the news and the world's newsmakers, Colbert "bonded" with the nation's armed forces as the Thunderbirds put him through some aerobatic maneuvers in the back of their Fighting Falcon.

Colbert has also entertained the troops who are deployed overseas but this marks the first time that he traveled to Long Island to take up the challenge of staying conscious and maintaining your dry sense of parody while upside down in a screaming F-16.

The Thunder That Honors America

The score of aircraft that flew in the annual Bethpage Federal Credit Union Memorial Day Airshow were once again welcomed at Republic Airport with the USAF demonstration team, the *Thunderbirds*, serving as headliners for this year's event.

Of particular challenge to the Republic team this year was to ensure that the construction work underway to relocate a taxiway for ground safety did not impede the movement of aircraft that ranged from F-16's to a B-17 *Flying Fortress* bomber.

Airport Manager Shelley LaRose-Arken explained, "Thousands of cubic yards of material are being moved and we needed to make sure that there was no dirt, stones, idle construction equipment or debris of any kind that could cause damage to these aircraft, support crews or pilots. It was a zero-failure environment and we accomplished our objectives."

LaRose-Arken credited a number of support agencies for ensuring the success of the airshow support effort, including SheltAir Aviation; East Farmingdale Fire

Department; the Long Island MacArthur Airport Fire Department; NYS Department of Transportation; NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; the Civil Air Patrol; the American Airpower Museum; Warbirds over Long Island; David Windmiller; and the GEICO Skytypers, among others.

A Pinch of Salt...and Other Movie Magic

A steady stream of film industry location scouts are making their way to Republic Airport to make use of spaces that range from vintage aviation to wooded wilderness. The blockbuster *Salt* with Angelina Jolie spent weeks at the airport filming in a variety of locations while dodging the rain during this historically wet Spring.

Airport Director Michael Geiger observed, "The last time we had this amount of security we had Air Force One sitting on the ramp." Indeed, security was extremely tight around the star and her film crew as various scenes were shot on a closed set. However, Geiger says the airport continues to entertain a number of other film companies as they create a new source of economic activity for the region. The next production slated to begin at Republic is an HBO mini-series by Martin Scorsese entitled *Boardwalk Empire*.

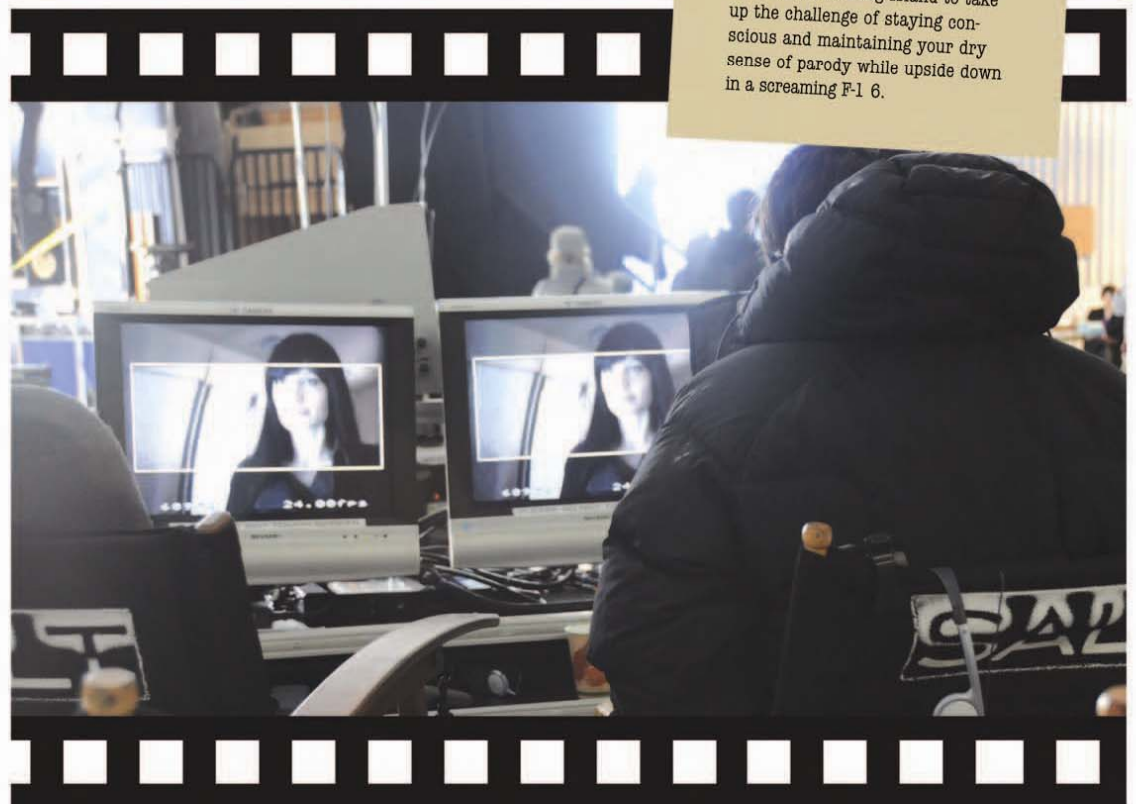


Photo credit: Nancy Epstein