



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park receives Charles S. Marshall Unit Award

Fort Washington, PA – Each year, Eastern National recognizes one of their national park partners with the Charles S. Marshall Unit Award. The award is named after the former National Park Service Southeast Regional Director, who later served as Executive Secretary of Eastern National.

The award recognizes an outstanding agency that has achieved noteworthy teamwork in promoting and aiding the historical, scientific and educational activities of the National Park Service through Eastern National agency operation. Such teamwork is evidenced in agency growth, visitor service, product development, improvement and administration.

Two new educational retail sales outlets opened at the park during the 2002-2003 fiscal year. The Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center opened in December 2002 and the West Interpretive Center opened in June 2003. Together, the two sales outlets totaled almost \$118,000 in sales the first year.

The park recognized the importance of Eastern National's role in its interpretive program and approved many new items that were instrumental in the agency's stellar sales. Four Eastern National publications about the Wright Brothers were developed and continue to be top-sellers.

The year 2003 also marked the 100th Anniversary of the First Flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright. Park staff also assisted with two simultaneous First Flight Centennial Celebrations held in July 2003, demonstrating their dedication to providing excellent visitor service.

Eastern National President, Chesley Moroz presented the park superintendent, Larry Blake with the Charles S. Marshall Unit Award plaque in an award ceremony on Tuesday, February 17, 2004. "We are delighted to present this award to Dayton Aviation. Their efforts this year exemplified team work. The visitor experience at Dayton sets a new standard," said Moroz.

Eastern National is a non-profit organization that provides quality educational products and services to America's national parks and other public trusts. Eastern National operates educational outlets in over 130 national parks and public lands in 30 states. Since 1947, Eastern National has donated over \$70.7 million to the National Park Service. For more information, visit www.easternnational.org and www.eParks.com.

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