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Dayton Aviation Heritage
National Historical Park

The Wright B Flyer

Woodland Cemetery
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Historic WACO Field

Armstrong Air &
Space Museum

Wright State University
Wright Archives

Aviation Trail, Inc.
Visitor Center & Museum

Grimes Flying
Lab Foundation

2008 TRAILBLAZER AWARD TO MARY ANN JOHNSON

Mary Ann Johnson, aviation historian and author who has supported aviation-related projects in the Dayton-Miami Valley area for over 25 years, is the recipient of the 2008 Trailblazer Award presented annually by Aviation Trail, Inc.

The award banquet and ceremonies will be Wednesday, April 16, at the Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Dr., Kettering, Ohio. The event begins with a social at 6:30 P.M. followed by dinner at 6:45 P.M. and, at about 7:30, the Trailblazer ceremony and Ms. Johnson's speech. The public is welcome.

Presenting the award will be Superintendent Larry Blake, who accepted the 2007 Trailblazer Award on behalf of the National Park Service's Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Ms. Johnson's published work includes *A Field Guide to Flight: On the Aviation Trail* in Dayton, Ohio which tells the stories behind the more than 40 designated sites on the Dayton area's Aviation Trail. Her more recent book, *McCook Field 1917-1927: The Force Behind America's Golden Age of Flight*, describes the field's numerous pioneering research projects that underlie today's modern aerospace technology. Both are published by Landfall Press of Dayton, Ohio.

Currently secretary on the Aviation Trail Board of Trustees, Ms. Johnson is a founding member of the Trail and a board member since its incorporation as a nonprofit corporation in 1981. Her speech will tell about some of her experiences in writing the two books, which will bring in some of the story of Aviation Trail's history.

A native Daytonian and resident of Washington Township, Ms. Johnson was a stay-at-home mother until her and her husband Rich's four children were grown. She then returned to school to obtain a Master's degree in economics from Wright State University, Fairborn, Ohio. Her Bachelor's degree in sociology—earned before her marriage—is from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.



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Ms. Johnson became interested in local aviation history after helping to plan a regional economic development conference at the University of Dayton in 1980 while she was an economic planner on the staff of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. She also has served as a part-time instructor in economics at Sinclair Community College, Dayton, and worked on various local and national survey research projects.

The Trailblazer banquet and award ceremony commemorates Wilbur Wright's April birthday (April 16, 1867) and has been held annually since 1983. Reservations are \$40 a person and should be mailed to the following address by Friday, April 11: Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio, 45409. Please indicate your choice of entrée (beef, chicken or vegetarian).

For more information, contact Helen Kavanaugh Jones 937.434.9108, phone and fax.

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