



50¢

Bloodmobile • Currituck County Complex • Today 10-2

Additional Locations, Page 10A

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 19, 2006

THE COASTLAND TIMES

Published On Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays In The Interest Of The Walter Raleigh Coastland-Outer Banks Areas

VOLUME LXXII, NUMBER 72

MANTEO, NC 27954 Tel. 252-473-2105

KILL DEVIL HILLS, NC 27948 Tel. 252-441-2223

Soaring tribute



AN AIR SHOW, including flybys by an assortment of various aircraft, was the culminating tribute to Orville and Wilbur Wright at the 103rd first flight anniversary celebration at Wright Brothers National Memorial, this past Sunday, December 17, in Kill Devil Hills. (M. Artz photo)

First airline pilot honored at 103rd anniversary of the first flight

By MATT ARTZ

The world's first airline pilot is the 2006 inductee into the Paul E. Garber First Flight Society Shrine.

Wright Brothers National Memorial hosted the society's 103rd anniversary celebration of Orville and Wilbur Wright's first powered flight on December 17, 1903 in what is now the town of Kill Devil Hills.

An estimated 450 people attended this past Sunday's annual observance inside the First Flight Centennial Pavilion, which opened, as is tradition, with a patriotic prelude concert by the talented student band from Northeastern High School, in Elizabeth City.

Northeastern's Junior Air Force ROTC then presented the colors at 9 a.m., as Graham Outten, of the First Flight High School Seaside Singers, performed the National Anthem.

The crowd was welcomed by local dignitaries, including

National Park Service Outer Banks Group Superintendent Mike Murray, Dare County Board of Commissioners Chairman Warren Judge, Kill Devil Hills Mayor Pro Tem Ray Sturza, and Kitty Hawk Councilman Gary Perry, as Wright Memorial Historian Darrell Collins eloquently recited a stirring history of the Wrights' journey to liftoff.

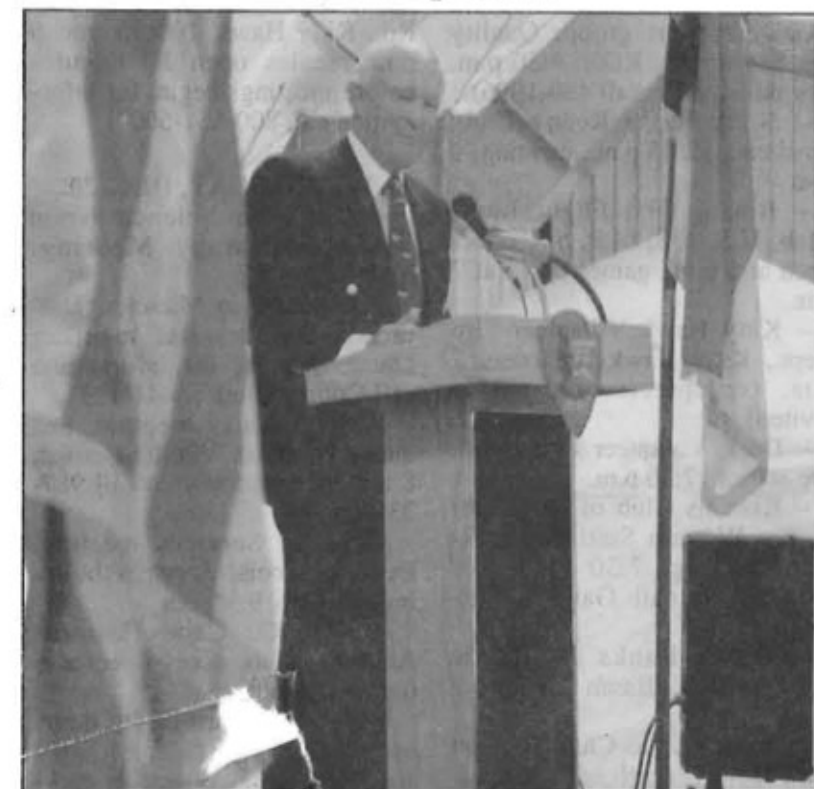
Dr. Tom Crouch, senior curator of the Division of Aeronau-

tics at the Smithsonian Institution, and Col. Joseph Bullers, of the St. Petersburg Museum of History, paid tribute to shrine inductee Anthony "Tony" Jannus, who Crouch called "A genuine pioneer, a real early bird."

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1889, Jannus had taught himself how to fly by age 21, and had already soloed in a Rexford Smith biplane at College Park, Md. He moved to St. Louis in

See PILOT, Page 11A

Guest speaker



GEN. RALPH E. EBERHART, USAF Retired, was among the guest speakers at this past Sunday's observance of the 103rd first flight anniversary at Wright Brothers National Memorial. (M. Artz photo)

Flight fans



APPROXIMATELY 450 PEOPLE attended this past Sunday's 103rd first flight anniversary celebration at Wright Brothers National Memorial, in Kill Devil Hills. (M. Artz photo)

PILOT

(continued from Page 1A)

1911 to serve as chief pilot for the Benoist Aircraft Company.

Jannus first made history on March 1, 1912, when his passenger, 2005 shrine inductee Albert Berry, dropped 1,500 feet and made the world's first parachute jump from a moving plane.

On January 1, 1914, Jannus became the first airline pilot, flying St. Petersburg Mayor Abe Pheil from St. Petersburg to Tampa, Fla. for the inauguration of the "St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line." The mayor paid \$400 for the honor of being the first passenger.

Jannus died just two years later, at age 27, when he crashed into Russia's Black Sea in a Cur-

tiss H-7 he was test flying for Curtiss Aeroplanes.

"In his time," said Crouch, "He was one of the best aviators in the nation. Had Jannus lived, Charles Lindbergh would have had a worthy rival."

The celebration culminated at 10:35 a.m., the exact minute when Orville Wright first took off 103 years ago, with an air

show of flybys, including two FA-18 Hornet fighters, four F-15 Strike Eagles, a Douglas DC-3 and a DC-4, and the Spirit of Berlin Candy Bomber, among others.

Each steel bird that roared overhead was its own tribute to more than a century of achievement in aviation, and the promise of a soaring future.

Shrine addition



ANTHONY JANNUS, the world's first airline pilot, is the 2006 inductee into the Paul E. Garber First Flight Society Shrine at Wright Brothers National Memorial. The commemorative portrait, unveiled this past Sunday's 103rd anniversary celebration, was painted by local artist John De La Vega. (M. Artz photo)