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**Contact:**  
Mary Flannery  
215.937.5424  
mary.flannery@phl.org

## **PHL Celebrates 75 Years of Commercial Air Service**

**PHILADELPHIA** – Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), the only major airport serving the nation’s sixth largest metropolitan area, is commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of its commercial air service in 1940.

Over the years, the Airport has expanded its footprint and operations, growing to become a major air transportation hub today. PHL is the 10<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the United States and 15<sup>th</sup> busiest in the world in terms of takeoffs and landings.

PHL opened in 1940 as the Philadelphia Municipal Airport with just four airline carriers. Today, 27 carriers offer service to 130 domestic and international destinations, including European and Middle East major cities. With the new American Airlines as its dominant carrier, PHL serves more than 30 million passengers annually on domestic and international flights.

Through the decades, the Airport has responded to the changing needs of the aviation industry with expansion, improvement and modernization projects. Just since 2000, the Airport has invested \$2 billion in capital improvements – including major airfield, terminal and cargo projects – that have transformed its landscape, enhanced passenger experiences and bolstered the Airport’s role as a leader in the global air service market.

Mayor Michael A. Nutter noted that the last five years have been particularly strong for PHL. “We celebrate 75 years of commercial service on the heels of five new airlines starting service, major improvements to Terminal F and more approved capital investments to come. PHL has never been more vibrant.”

Owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in the nation, PHL is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. Conveniently located on I-95 just seven miles southwest of Center City, the Airport is one of the largest economic engines in the region. It generates more than \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy, and accounts for more than 141,000 jobs within the region.

“Over the past 75 years, the PHL Airport has helped to position Philadelphia as one of America’s premier cities and travel destinations,” said Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities Rina Cutler. “With a rich history and bright future ahead, PHL has cemented itself as an economic driver and travel hub for the entire Philadelphia region.”

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“While Philadelphia International Airport has evolved and grown over the years along with the dynamic aviation industry, one thing remains the same – we are committed to providing a safe, convenient and enjoyable airport experience for local and world travelers alike,” said Airport CEO Mark Gale.

PHL has earned an international reputation for its innovative and extensive amenities that engage passengers. The renowned Exhibitions Program, which began more than a decade ago, highlights regional artists working in various media by displaying their creations throughout the terminals, walkways and baggage claim areas.

The Airport’s award-winning concessions program boasts 170 food, beverage and retail experiences. PHL’s restaurants were recently singled out by a physicians group for their abundance of nutritious menu offerings.

There is free wi-fi as well as more than 900 complimentary power-charging outlets and tables located throughout the Airport. The Virtual Library, provided by the Free Library of Philadelphia, allows travelers to download more than 27,000 e-books.

For those traveling with children, there are two play areas. Traveling with a pet? The Airport offers 7 outdoor Pet Ports.

The Airport addressed the winter cold with a new program, *Oh, Say It Ain’t Snow!! Weather the Winter Blues at PHL*. The program helped lift travelers’ spirits with live music, artist’s demonstrations, caricature artists, and complimentary bags of popcorn. The annual summer-long customer appreciation program, *Just Plane Fun*, kicks off its 6th season in June with a daily schedule of live entertainment.

As part of the celebratory year, the Exhibitions Program will feature Airport artifacts from the past decades in a display between Terminals C and D, on view July 15 - September 2015. Students from nearby Tinicum School will create aviation-inspired artwork that will be on view May 22 - August 2015 in the Youth Art Gallery located in Terminal A-East Baggage Claim.

In addition, to complement its robust social media presence on Twitter (@PHLAirport), which has more than 9,000 followers, the Airport is starting Facebook and Instagram accounts with links to 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities.

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