



Press Release

For immediate release
December 4, 2018

Media Contact:

Kevin Meeks,
Director of Communications
918-834-9900 ext. 215

Remembering President George H.W. Bush

TULSA, Okla. – The Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium honors the legacy of President George H.W. Bush, an accomplished statesman, diplomat and aviator.

Most know of his military record of completing 58 combat missions during WWII as a U.S. Navy Pilot, but when he was just learning to fly Bush made his first solo flight in a Tulsa-built airplane.

On the morning of November 12, 1942 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a Navy cadet with only 10.3 hours of flight time climbed into a Spartan NP-1 with his instructor for an hour long flight. After landing and a change of instructor, the pilot took off for one more 30 minute flight. The instructor then hopped out of the NP-1 and sent the future President back into the air for his first solo flight.

This story is told in front of a Spartan NP-1 aircraft, which came to the Museum in 2008. Although Bush did not take his first solo flight in this specific aircraft, it is still notable for being the last flyable Spartan NP-1.

The Spartan NP-1 was designed and manufactured in Tulsa, Oklahoma by the Spartan Aircraft Company. Spartan's President W.G. Skelly was determined to obtain a military contract and on Friday, July 5, 1940 the company was awarded a \$1,859,880 contract for the construction of 200 NP-1s as the new Navy trainer.

The Museum's staff, volunteers and board of directors joins the nation in mourning the passing of President George H.W. Bush and plans to continue honoring his legacy.



About TASM

Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium is the region's hub of science based learning through discovery. Each year, more than 50,000 visitors pass through the museum to explore Tulsa's rich aviation heritage and explore the correlation of science and technology with flight. Learn more at <https://www.tulsamuseum.org>.

#