



Sussex County Post

From farmland to beach-front, covering all of Southern Delaware

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FREE

ON THE WINGS OF A DREAM!



Sussex County Post/Glenn Hoffe

Presentation of murals chronicling the life of 1948 Lewes High School graduate Theodore C. Freeman were presented to Capt. Freeman's daughter, Faith Johnson, and childhood friend Joe Hudson of Milton following the Feb. 18 dedication of Delaware Technical Community College's new Theodore C. Freeman Powerplant Education Building at the Sussex County Airport. From left: Mark Stellini, Chairman of the DTCC Board of Trustees; Ms. Johnson; Mr. Hudson; DTCC President Dr. Orlando J. George Jr., and DTCC trustee Dr. Louis Owens.

Delaware Tech lands another aviation wing

Former astronaut's spirit lives aviation maintenance program is Markell snipped the ribbon, dedicat-

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astronaut.

"His whole life, his passion was flying," said Capt. Freeman's daughter, Faith Johnson.

On Oct. 31, 1964, at age 34, Capt. Freeman died on a routine flight — McDonnell-Douglas training center in Missouri to Ellington Air Force Base in Texas — when during his landing approach a snow-goose struck the intake of his T-38 Talon Jet causing immediate engine failure.

"In order to avoid crashing into homes, Captain Freeman remained in his plane until he was too low for the parachute to fully deploy," said DTTC Vice President and Owens Campus Director Dr. Ileana Smith. "His unselfish act cost him his life."

The \$1.4 million hangar/building, located on county-donated land across from DTCC's airframe maintenance facility at the airport, now bears his name. And it will enable Del Tech to double its educational offerings in the aviation field.

"The college will now be able graduate 24 students skilled in both airframe and power-plant every year. Twenty four graduates every year," said Dr. George.

Constructed with private and state funds, the 9,800-square-foot hangar facility features classroom and hands-on learning space.

An additional \$1.1 million in latest-technology equipment was provided through state and federal sources.

"Especially in today's economy it takes everyone committed to working together to make sure that we protect the jobs we have, support opportunities of new jobs and provide our residents with the education they need to be successful. When we work together everyone wins," said Dr. George. "Delaware Tech's unique mission of connecting Delawareans with jobs makes us a lynchpin in the



State Rep. Ron Gray, R-Selbyville, points to an airplane's engine/powerplant as State Sen. Robert Venables, D-Laurel, left, and Delaware Technical Community College airframe maintenance graduate Ryan Woitas of Harrington look on during the dedication of the Theodore C. Freeman Powerplant Education Building.

Sussex County Post/Glenn Rolfe

ing and growing."

"He was always looking for out other people," said Milton resident Joe Hudson, Capt. Freeman's childhood.

In a biographical reflection, Dr. Smith noted that Capt. Freeman's family moved to Lewes when he was one year old. "He grew up during WWII, hanging around the Rehoboth Airport interacting with anyone in aviation," Dr. Smith said. "He saved money, not for candy and movies, but for airplane rides."

"They said every penny he made he did for that," said Ms. Johnson.

On a lighter note Dr. Smith added that "Ted and his best friend Joe Hudson began piloting airplanes with no official license to fly ..."

A year before his death, Capt. Freeman was one of 14 astronauts selected for the Gemini and Apollo programs.

"It is considered virtually certain

"In this particular case this fabulous investment is a direct response to what we have been hearing from the wonderful aviation industry in Delaware now for a few years," said Gov. Markell.

The power plant program is the second part of a three-phase Associate Degree program being developed by Delaware Tech at the Sussex County Airport as part of Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants providing funds to community colleges for career programs in areas with growing need for trained employees.

"I am thrilled that this new facility is opening its doors," said U.S. Sen. Thomas Carper, who was unable to attend the dedication and forwarded a video. "In doing so, it opens the doors to world class training and fruitful careers in aircraft maintenance,

together, with Sussex County donating the land and hangar and the federal grant that makes the power plant program possible. Along with Vice President Biden, former Governor Mike Castle and former Senator Ted Kaufman, I worked hard to make the Sussex County airport an economic driver for Southern Delaware. There is great potential to attract more aviation-related businesses and a primed talent pool will certainly help to propel them here quicker."

"This is the way it is supposed to work," said U.S. Rep. John Carney.

After the dedication, a mural was unveiled in the building's main hallway entitled: "On the Wings of a Dream, the Ted Freeman Legacy," chronicling his extraordinary life.

"They (students) will be inspired by that — a local guy, a farm boy who saved money and started to fly," said Ms. Johnson.

"We are honored to carry on the