

JONATHAN † GAFFNEY

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT



JONATHAN GAFFNEY has spent over 30 years building more efficient, effective, functional, and cost-effective organizations as a Navy Officer, Congressional Staff Member, Corporate Executive, and National Association Leader.

From 2007 to 2016 he served as the 31st President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Aeronautic Association and during his time completely transformed one of the world's oldest aeronautical organizations (founded in 1905) from near-insolvency into a vibrant, sustainable association internationally recognized as a leader in aerospace record keeping and recognition.

Under his leadership NAA decreased expenses by approximately 40% (through a 50% staff reduction and a 70% reduction in leasing and operations) and subsequently produced the first eight profitable years (2008-2015) since 1999. Externally, during this period, NAA increased corporate support of by over 325%; re-establishing strong, professional relationships with NAA's corporate partners, air sport affiliates, and associated aero clubs across the country; strengthened NAA Board

involvement; and greatly increasing the exposure, value, and prestige of numerous NAA Awards including the Robert Collier Trophy, the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, the Katherine Wright Trophy, and numerous other awards. Internally, he streamlined, transformed, and functionalized the entire operational structure of the organization which resulted in a sustainable, stable operation. In addition, he served as a Board Member of the Aero Club of Washington, the Soaring Society of America, the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Balloon Federation of America, and the International Aerobatic Club.

Prior to arriving at NAA, he served for 12 years as the first Vice President for Communications of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the operators of Washington Dulles International and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airports. In his position he built the Authority's external relations program and had executive responsibility for the Authority's Government Relations Program, Public and Media Affairs, Community and Business Relations, Marketing, and the Authority's Noise Abatement Office. He was involved in the coordination and management of all major, external Authority initiatives including the promotion of over \$6 billion in capital development, legislative strategy, regional cooperation, media strategy, major events, crisis communications, marketing programs, and business relations. In 2001, he played a central role in the reopening of National Airport after its 24-day shutdown, post-9/11, and in his career at the Authority conducted over 1000 media interviews. He served as Acting Airport Manager of National Airport for three months in 2005.

Prior to his work in aviation, he served for five years as a senior staff member in the United States House of Representatives as Legislative Director to Congressman Jim Moran. On the Hill he managed the Congressman's legislative agenda including strategy, speech writing, constituent communications, bill drafting, and voting recommendations. He also directed a number of critical regional projects including coordinating a regional response to the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure process which recommended relocating six major commands from Northern Virginia.

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A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh (M.A., '89) and Quinnipiac University (B.S. '83), he completed a 22-year career as an Officer in the Navy Reserve, retiring with the rank of Commander. During his Navy Career, he completed tours of duty onboard the nuclear aircraft carrier USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) where he was the Radiation Health Officer as well as the Medical Administrative Officer; recalled to active duty during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and served as Officer-In-Charge of a Naval Reserve Fleet Hospital Detachment. He is the recipient of numerous awards to include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

As a staff member at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in the late 1980's, he worked on a number of important projects, including directing the CSIS Project, "National Service for Out-of-School Youth" which became the basis for the National Guard's "Challenge Program." In addition to this work he researched, wrote, and delivered numerous speeches, position papers, and congressional testimony on such areas as the legislative process in Congress, defense, U.S. foreign policy, naval operations, the U.S. defense industrial base, and national service. He appeared numerous times on television networks, and his columns were published in major newspapers across the nation.

During his career, he has testified before committees of the United States Congress on defense downsizing and veterans' issues, and has served on a number of regional and statewide commissions. He has spoken frequently to industry and corporate groups on public relations, organizational streamlining, development, media relations, government relations, and crisis management.

A native of Monument Beach (Cape Cod, Massachusetts), he is married to Tracy Malone, a retired Navy Captain, and they have three children. They reside in Arlington, Virginia.