

12575. RESOLUTION 26-16: A TRIBUTE TO GIUSEPPE M. BELLANCA, AEROSPACE DESIGNER AND INVENTOR WHO ESTABLISHED BELLANCA AIRCRAFT CORPORATION IN NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE.

The Executive Director presented the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Giuseppe Mario Bellanca was born on March 19, 1886 in Sciacca, Sicily, graduating from the Technical Institute in Milan with a teaching degree in mathematics in 1908; and

WHEREAS, during his educational pursuits, Mr. Bellanca became enamored with aviation, evolving into a lifelong passion; and

WHEREAS, at the urging of his brother Carlo, who was already established in Brooklyn, New York, Giuseppe Bellanca immigrated to America in 1911; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bellanca applied his principles of lift, propulsion and control to construct the first cabin monoplane in America in 1922, a remarkable airplane that amassed 13 competitive victories in a single year; and

WHEREAS, the DuPont family actively recruited Mr. Bellanca to establish Bellanca Aircraft Corporation in New Castle in 1927; and

WHEREAS, the Bellanca Aircraft Corporation produced more than 3,000 civilian and military planes at its Delaware facility during its 26 years of operation; and

WHEREAS, visionary, innovator designer and builder of American aircraft, Giuseppe Bellanca designed the “Miss Veedol,” the first plane to complete a trans-Pacific nonstop flight in 1931; and

WHEREAS, a Bellanca airplane also broke the world's endurance record in 1931 by flying 84 and a half hours without refueling, a record that remained intact until 1986; and

WHEREAS, Giuseppe M. Bellanca, the father of Delaware Aviation, is enshrined in both the National Aviation Hall of Fame (1993) and the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame (1999).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware River and Bay Authority does hereby recognize and celebrate the trailblazing life of Giuseppe M. Bellanca, his many aviation achievements and invaluable contributions to Delaware’s aviation history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delaware River and Bay Authority commemorates the one hundred forty year anniversary of the birth of Giuseppe Mario Bellanca as well as his storied, impressive impact on the Delaware aviation community, which includes Wilmington Airport (ILG) and does hereby record our collective gratitude to August Bellanca, grandson of Giuseppe Bellanca and Bellanca Airfield Museum Board Member, with the presentation of this Resolution, adopted today, March 17, 2026.

Resolution 26-16 was moved by Commissioner Ratchford, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and was approved by a roll call vote of 11-0.