

**Dedicatory Prayer of the
Aviation Monument on Southgate Hill
May 23, 2007**

Our Beloved Father in Heaven,

We a few of thy sons of the Cotton Mission Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers and members of the community gather together this beautiful day to dedicate this aviation monument with great gratitude and thanksgiving for all that thou has blessed us with. We wish to acknowledge thy bounteous blessings upon us and confess thy hand in all that we have been given by thy merciful hand of providence.

We are most grateful for thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, and thank thee that thou hast sent him to this earth to accomplish the magnificent Atonement as part of thy Great and Merciful Plan of Salvation that we might enjoy a glorious resurrection and regain thy presence as we prove faithful.

We wish to thank thee for this Great Country that Thou hast caused to be raised up by some of thy most special and powerful sons especially prepared by thy Hand for this Sacred Purpose. We acknowledge thy Almighty Hand in establishing the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom thou didst prepare and inspire to accomplish this great work. We are thankful to be a free people on this Choice Land of America with the promise that we shall be free from bondage and captivity and from all other nations under heaven, if we will but serve the God of this land, who is thy Son Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the Prophet Brigham Young who sent our pioneer forefathers to this beautiful, desolate, and difficult desert land of southern Utah to make it blossom as the rose to cultivate and build up this great city of St. George from its very beginnings. We wish to thank thee for these early Pioneer families for their faith, determination, endurance, persistence, and tenacity to overcome severe obstacles and difficulties in establishing this great city and beautifying the land. We are thankful for the establishment of our Great State and for the inspired government that thou established to

govern first the State of Deseret, and now the Grand State of Utah.

We are thankful for our city and county officials, for the good that they do, and the service that they render. We especially thank Mayor Dan McArthur who is with us today.

We are thankful for the Sons of Utah Pioneers organization, for the good that they accomplish and the values and worthy causes like this one that they support. We especially appreciate Brother Cliff Spendlove for his leadership in making this monument and dedication happen. We appreciate the initiative of the "Sons" to preserve the history and heritage of our Southern Utah area with monuments and improvements.

And now, acting in the authority in us vested, **and with authorization from and in behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cotton Mission Chapter, Sons of Utah Pioneers** we dedicate this conspicuous site and beautiful monument on top of this Southgate Hill in honor of those early pioneer aviators that have paved the way to make possible the wonderful passenger flight services that we enjoy today. By doing so, we wish to memorialize and celebrate the remembrance of the first "regular commercial aerial passenger service in America" (May 23, 1926, 81 years ago today), and this beautiful Monument and original 50-foot cement Navigation Arrow pointing the right way to early aviators in their flights to "find their way" across this part of the country.

We ask for thy protection of this monument that it may stand the test of Sun, Wind, occasional Rain, and Time.

May we find strength in remembering this "Navigational Arrow" as a symbol of direction in pointing us to the right way and to stay on thy righteous path, even Thy Chosen Way.

May we all be inspired by the achievements of these early aviators, their initiative, efforts, innovation, and hard work to make possible the wonderful marvel of air travel that blesses our lives today with the freedom of movement and contributions to commerce and economic development.

May we retain and build upon this same Pioneer spirit and legacy of service, to continue in their example to serve mankind and make every effort, even our best efforts to improve, innovate, work hard and build up this city and our community with the same spirit of dedication, innovation, courage, hard work, and pioneer unity.

In the Sacred Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Offered by Hal G. Anderson
President Bloomington Utah Stake
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**