



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

# CDA Web Alert

March 11, 2010

## **Commissioner Andolino participates in Lithuanian celebrations at Midway International Airport**

Today, Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino was a guest speaker at the celebration of the 20th anniversary for the re-establishment of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania at Midway International Airport.

The event culminated with the rededication of a plaque honoring Lithuanian-American pilots Stepanos Darius and Stasys Girenas. In the summer of 1933, Darius and Girenas flew an aircraft they built near Midway, from Chicago to New York. From there, on July 15, 1933, they departed on an historic non-stop, trans-Atlantic voyage to their homeland of Lithuania. While they successfully crossed the Atlantic Ocean, their aircraft crashed outside a small village in Germany, just 650 kilometers short of their goal of Kaunas, Lithuania.

Andolino acknowledged the significance of the flight to aviation history, as well as the entrepreneurial spirit of Darius and Girenas.

Other event speakers included Erin O'Donnell, Managing Deputy Commissioner at Midway; Skaiste Anuiliene, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania; Khaled Elkhatib, Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of International Relations; Stanley Balzekas Jr., Chair of the Vilnius Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International; and Algimantas Barniskis, Chair of the Darius and Girenas Committee.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM),

released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit [www.airportgoinggreen.org](http://www.airportgoinggreen.org).

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit [www.oharemodernization.org](http://www.oharemodernization.org) to learn more about the OMP.

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