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Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA)

“Austin’s First Lady of Aviation” Emma Browning honored with street naming at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Emma Browning was honored with a street dedication ceremony at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport on Tuesday, October 26, 2010. The Austin City Council approved renaming General Aviation Avenue for Emma Browning at its October 14 meeting. Browning, October 26, 1910-April 23, 2010, was an Austin aviation pioneer. The dedication of Emma Browning Avenue was timed for what would have been her 100th birthday. A fly over of aircraft once owned by Mrs. Browning was an event highlight.

“Emma Browning's family wishes to express its gratitude to the City of Austin, the aviation industry and business community for recognizing her achievements in this manner,” said Glenn Hogan, Emma Browning’s nephew. “To dedicate a street in her name, by the city she was proud to call home for many years, would have pleased her. It is a tremendous honor for her friends and family to be a part of this dedication.”



Glenn Hogan and a plaque dedicated to his aunt Emma Browning at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

Ceremony festivities included a plaque dedication, signing of a replica street sign and a fly over by planes once owned by Mrs. Browning. Family and friends were in attendance to hear a special proclamation read by Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell.



Left: Emma Browning pictured in the cockpit of her J3-Cub, circa 1940. Above: The same J3-Cub (left) joins another former Browning plane, a Stinson, in a fly over Emma Browning Avenue at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

“Emma Browning was a truly special woman who dedicated her life to general aviation,” said Jim Schwertner, a life long friend and former student pilot of Mrs. Browning. “It is so fitting that this street, which is home to the general aviation FBOs (Fixed Based Operators) here at ABIA, is being named in her honor. This remembrance would have meant so much to her.”

Emma Browning made Aviation her life. Along with husband Robert, Browning helped develop and manage early fixed base operations in Austin. The Brownings helped train World War II pilots. After the war, Browning Aerial Service moved to Robert Mueller Municipal Airport where it provided maintenance, storage, charters, sales and flight instruction - teaching many Central Texans how to fly. In 2003, the Texas Department of Transportation gave Mrs. Browning its lifetime achievement award and Texas Governor Rick Perry declared her a “Texas aviation hero.” She was inducted into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame in 2005 as “Austin’s First Lady of Aviation.” Biography attached.

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is ranked as the best in customer service in North America and second among airports its size around the globe by the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality Survey. Austin-Bergstrom has nonstop service to 38 destinations and served 8.2 million passengers in 2009. A complete listing of all nonstop flight destinations from Austin and the airlines that serve them is available at www.abia.org, click on ‘airlines & flights.’

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