

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, 2024 marks the centennial of the first around the world flight, which originated from Washington state, departing from Seattle's Sand Point Park; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 1924, eight intrepid aviators took off near the shores of Lake Washington at Sand Point Naval Air Station to begin their quest to be the first aviators to circle the globe by air; and

WHEREAS, they flew the Douglas World Cruiser with a crew of two in a single engine bi-wing aircraft made of wood and fabric, and because of weight constraints, they carried no parachutes or survival equipment; and

WHEREAS, they were supported by 36 ships from the United States (U.S.) Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Danish Coast Guard, and six advanced U.S. Army Air Service officers; and

WHEREAS, they flew through the arctic winds of Alaska, sweltering humidity of Asia, blistering heat of the Middle East, and the treacherous weather and icebergs of the North Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, the aviators survived two crashes and five forced landings, making 76 landings in 22 countries and flying a total of 26,345 miles; and

WHEREAS, after 175 days en route, met by an estimated 50,000 Seattleites, two aircrafts landed at Sand Point Field, Washington after successfully completing the First World Flight by air on September 28, 1924; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate the depth and breadth of Washington state's aeronautical history, Friends of Magnuson Park will host a multiday event leading up to the celebration of the First Flight Centennial;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2024, as

First Flight Centennial Celebration Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 5th day of July, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

