



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on June 14, 1917, the United States War Department agreed to the lease agreement of nearly 624 acres of land in what is known today as **Scott Air Force Base**; and

WHEREAS, Congress appropriated \$10 million for its construction, and 2,000 laborers and carpenters were immediately put to work. The government gave the Unit Construction Company 60 days to erect approximately 60 buildings, lay a mile-long railroad spur, and to level off an airfield with a 1,600 foot landing circle; and

WHEREAS, the government named Scott Field in honor of Corporal Frank Scott, the first enlisted service member killed in an aviation crash; and

WHEREAS, the first flight from Scott Field occurred on September 2, 1917; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 1947 the United States Air Force became a separate service, and on January 13, 1948, Scott Field was redesignated as Scott Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, the City of Belleville and Scott Air Force Base began the Belle-Scott Committee, fostering a long and robust friendship and partnership through the years; and

WHEREAS, throughout the past 100 years, Scott Air Force Base has been a cornerstone of America's defense and today oversees major transportation and airlift operations for our service members whether for national defense, peacekeeping or for humanitarian operations; and

WHEREAS, our service men and women forego comfort, face hardships, confront danger and sometimes give their life in our defense, and they have well earned our unwavering support; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who serve at Scott Air Force Base are our family, and we are invested in their well-being as they are in ours. Our military men and women integrate in our daily lives as a part of our neighborhoods, churches, and schools; and

WHEREAS, Scott Air Force Base is an extremely vital part of our community, generating an economic impact that exceeds \$4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, in both 2013 and 2014, Scott Air Force Base was awarded the prestigious Abilene Trophy, also known as the Air Mobility Command Community Support Award, for outstanding community support; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Air Force Times named Scott Air Force Base the best base to live for airmen; and

WHEREAS, Belleville congratulates the military and civilian employees of Scott Air Force Base, past and present leaders, and families who have contributed to our local cities, who volunteer in our schools and for thousands of projects and organizations that benefit our region.

Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future
NOW, THEREFORE, I Mark W. Eckert, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby recognize and celebrate the **100th Birthday of Scott Air Force Base**. It is certainly fitting that we, the residents of the City of Belleville, commemorate their **Centennial Celebration** and extend special honors to the military men and women of Scott Air Force Base in tribute of "**A Century of Service**".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 9th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen.

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert, Mayor

Dated this 9th day of March, 2017