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August 24, 2026
Dulles, VA

Contact:

Scott K. York - (703) 430-8759
scottyork@committeefordulles.org

**National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center to receive the
Committee for Dulles' Tower of Dulles**

The Committee for Dulles (CFD) has named the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center as the 2026 recipient of its Tower of Dulles Award. The honor recognizes the Center's staff, retail associates, and volunteers for creating an exceptional learning experience. Presented annually, the award honors individuals or organizations whose service provides for the betterment of Washington Dulles International Airport and the Dulles economic corridor.

CFD's President, Brandon Ferris, stated, "The Udvar-Hazy Center represents so much of what makes the Dulles region special. It inspires the next generation through aviation, aerospace, and STEM education, welcomes visitors from around the world, and contributes meaningfully to the vitality of our regional economy. As the Committee for Dulles celebrates its 60th anniversary, I can think of few organizations more deserving of the Tower of Dulles Award. We are proud to recognize the Center's staff, associates, and volunteers for the extraordinary impact they continue to make on our community and the Dulles corridor."

Since opening in December 2003, the Udvar-Hazy Center has welcomed an average of 1.2 million visitors worldwide each year, along with nearly 6,000 tour buses annually. According to TEA Global Experience Rankings, the Udvar-Hazy Center is the most visited museum in Virginia.

The Udvar-Hazy Center offers numerous opportunities for community engagement. Its STEAM Labs provide hands-on, STEM-focused learning to thousands of students each year, while Explainer-led Discovery Stations offer brief lessons and presentations for visitors of all ages. The free Aviation Explorers Camp serves communities across Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., introducing local campers to the science of flight and a range of aviation careers. The Teacher Innovator Institute is a free, two-week program for educators nationwide that explores connections between STEAM education and authentic learning.

The Udvar-Hazy Center also strengthens the regional economy. Because the museum is a destination for out-of-town visitors, it brings tourism revenue to Northern Virginia, benefiting not only the Smithsonian but also local hotels, restaurants, attractions, and other businesses. The Museum's Explainers program gives high school and college students valuable work experience. Participants learn about aviation- and aerospace-related STEM concepts and present them to visitors, building strong public speaking and customer service skills that support their career development. Many participants have also received Committee for Dulles scholarships.

The Tower of Dulles Award has been awarded annually since 1997. This year's award will be presented at the Committee's 2026 Tower of Dulles Wards Gala on November 13, 2026, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Committee. Anyone wishing to attend the Gala may register at www.committeefordulles.org.

The evening will also feature the presentation of the *David A. Edwards Community Service Award* to the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation and the *Hal Lauenders Award* to Howard Lansat.

The Committee is a dynamic coalition of business leaders, policymakers, and community members dedicated to strengthening Washington Dulles International Airport as a premier air travel hub and an economic engine for the surrounding business community.

Committee for Dulles

45025 Aviation Drive, Suite 108, Dulles, VA 20166

www.committeefordulles.org / 703.430.8749