

RESOLUTION NO. 16-3

Naming the Arrivals Hall within the International Arrivals Building at Dulles International Airport the “James A. Wilding International Arrivals Hall”

WHEREAS, In 1959, James A. Wilding began his professional career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an engineer working in Chantilly, Virginia, in a field that would become Washington Dulles International Airport;

WHEREAS, In the years following the 1962 opening of Dulles International Airport, Mr. Wilding became the Chief Engineer for the Metropolitan Washington Airports, the organization within the FAA that operated Dulles International Airport and, at the time, Washington National Airport (Airports), thereafter becoming the Deputy Director of the Metropolitan Washington Airports and, in 1979, the Director;

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilding recognized the benefits of the two Airports being operated by an independent airports authority, and worked tirelessly with the leaders of the executive and legislative branches of government at the federal and state level to achieve the enactment of legislation by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia creating the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, as well as the enactment of Congressional legislation authorizing the lease of the federally-owned Airports to the newly created Airports Authority;

WHEREAS, As the first President and Chief Executive Officer of the Airports Authority, Mr. Wilding oversaw the successful transition of the management of the two Airports from the federal government to the Airports Authority;

WHEREAS, During his tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wilding led multiple efforts to modernize and expand facilities at Dulles International and Reagan National Airports in order to meet the ever-increasing demands for air transportation services prompted by the substantial commercial and residential growth of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region;



WHEREAS, Under Mr. Wilding's vision and remarkable leadership, construction of new terminals and concourses, runways and other airfield improvements, roadways, and other essential infrastructure improvements occurred at both Dulles International and Reagan National Airports to accommodate the regional demand for increased and improved air transportation services, as well as the substantial modernization taking place within the aviation industry;

WHEREAS, Significant accomplishments occurring during Mr. Wilding's tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer include construction of Terminal B/C at Reagan National Airport and, at Dulles International Airport, construction of the International Arrivals Building, expansion of the landmark Eero Saarinen main terminal, construction of midfield concourses, planning and acquisition of land for a new fourth runway, and planning and design for a new underground passenger rail system;

WHEREAS, While with the FAA, Mr. Wilding was instrumental in the transfer of a portion of the right-of-way then controlled by the FAA along the Dulles Airport access highway to the Commonwealth of Virginia for construction of the Dulles Toll Road, an action that played a critical role in the transformation of the Dulles corridor into a major component of the "economic engine" of Northern Virginia;

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilding led the Airports Authority through the very difficult period following the events of September 11, 2001 – a period in which considerable pressures to close Reagan National Airport were overcome and both Airports successfully converted to a new and heightened security environment;

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Wilding served the broader airport and aviation industry in countless ways, including as President of the Airports Council International-North America and a member of its board of directors, as President of the Aero Club of Washington and, over the years, by generously assisting the Transportation Research Board in its planning for the transition of the nation's aviation system to the Next Generation Air Transportation System;

WHEREAS, In addition to his contributions to the Airports Authority and the airport and aviation industry, Mr. Wilding served the Washington, D.C., region in multiple other ways, including as Chairman of the United Way of Arlington County, Virginia, as a member of the Economic Development Commission of Arlington County, and as a member of other local or regional boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that it is highly appropriate for the Airports Authority to recognize the decades of unparalleled service, leadership and contributions which have been provided by James A. Wilding; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, for his legacy of leadership of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority from 1987 to 2003, his decades of service while with the FAA on behalf of the Airports prior to the 1987 formation of the Airports Authority, his extraordinary contributions to the development of air transportation in the Washington, D.C., region and throughout the nation, and the wisdom, passion, intellect, and integrity he brought to every activity he undertook on behalf of the Airports Authority, the arrivals hall within the International Arrivals Building at Dulles International Airport shall be named, and shall hereafter be referred to as, the "James A. Wilding International Arrivals Hall."

Adopted January 20, 2016



Lisa R. Makle-Brooks
Lisa R. Makle-Brooks, Interim Secretary