



History of AMT Day

AMT Day, or Aviation Maintenance Technician Day, was created to recognize Charles E. Taylor who was the Wright brother's mechanic and aviation's original "Unsung Hero"; or otherwise referred to as the "Father of Aircraft Maintenance". Having built the first aircraft engines, by hand no less, which enabled mankind to conquer controlled *powered* flight is a remarkable accomplishment. Recognizing Charlie's rightful place in aviation's history, which history almost forgot, is just and warranted. But how did AMT Day start? Why was it created? What does it mean?

To begin with we need to go back to 2001 when an FAA Inspector from the Sacramento FSDO named Richard "Dilly" Dilbeck first decided that Charles E. Taylor needed to be remembered. Charlie's accomplishments were recognized by the FAA with the creation of the Charles E. Taylor Master Mechanic Award thanks to another FAA Inspector, William F. "Bill" O'Brien. Bill created this award for AMTs who had served at least 50 years in aircraft maintenance with a minimum of 30 of these years as licensed A&P Mechanics. This award is very prestigious and rightfully so. What Mr. Dilbeck did was expand the recognition Charlie deserved by having all 50 United States, Commonwealths and Territories introduce and pass an AMT Day Resolution. Okay, you ask, so what does this resolution do?

Dilly had then California Senator Knight introduce a resolution that officially recognized May 24 of every year as Aviation Maintenance Technician Day in honor of Charlie's Birthday. This resolution remembers Taylor's place in history as being as important as that of the Wright brothers since it was Charlie who enabled the Wright Glider to become the Wright Flyer. But this resolution goes further and also recognizes the many skilled men and women who followed in Charles E. Taylor's footsteps in the craft Charlie created; the craft of today's AMT. In 2002 California became the first State to introduce and pass AMT Day.

May 24th was now recognized officially as a day to remember Charles E. Taylor and an entire craft and profession of skilled professionals that carry the heavy responsibilities of providing safe, airworthy aircraft industry wide. An industry that requires a high standard of knowledge, skill and integrity now had a day to say thank you to the men and women who care for commercial, general aviation, corporate, private, civil, military or experimental aircraft.

Thanks to Dilly's efforts in having California lead the way in passing the first AMT Day Resolution he enabled the Aircraft Maintenance Technicians Association, AMTA, a non-profit organization created to educate the public on who Charles E. Taylor was, to provide their energy and support in having the rest of the United States, Commonwealths and Territories follow suit. With the passion of Richard Dilbeck, the AMTA and other AMTs across the country there are now over 47 AMT Day Resolutions passed. The AMTA has had the United States Congress, through California Congressman Bob Filner's leadership and support, to introduce and pass a

Congressional AMT Day Resolution. Efforts are underway to have a United States Senate AMT Day Resolution introduced and passed.

Because of his nature Charles E. Taylor did not look to profit on his accomplishments and the rapid advances in aircraft technology had basically caused history to forget Charles E. Taylor and in turn forgotten, or at the very least taken for granted, the contributions of all the AMTs that came after Charlie. These resolutions were created to return attention to a significant individual as well as a group of individuals who take their responsibilities seriously but do not seek the limelight.

AMT Day is a day for an industry to recognize those who are the very “Faces Behind Safety” in aircraft maintenance. AMT Day is a day to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism and sacrifices of a proud profession. AMT Day is increasingly being celebrated throughout the aircraft maintenance community. AMT Day is Charles E. Taylor’s Day!

You can learn more about Charles E. Taylor by reading the biography Charles E. Taylor: 1868 - 1956 The Wright Brothers Mechanician written by Howard R. DuFour with Peter J. Unitt.