

# Gaylord Regional Airport NEWS



**In Retrospect:** I wanted to highlight some contrasts between the airport of December 2008 to your airport of December 2015. The new terminal building was a tremendous asset the county had secured in 2006 and furnishings were generously donated by many in our airport family. Still few county residents in 2008 visited or even knew where the airport was located. Today more than forty groups and organizations use the three airport conference rooms and the airport hosts several events throughout the year to include a fly-in, bike rodeo, chamber event, an airshow that draws 14,000+ and as of late more notably a coffee for veterans every month that has drawn up to 90 attendees. Financially the airport seven years ago was struggling in many areas compared to the airports positive cash balance it has today. Topping all this was the state's main highway I-75 recognizing the airport with its own MDOT sign.

Monthly Veterans Coffee



Northbound I-75



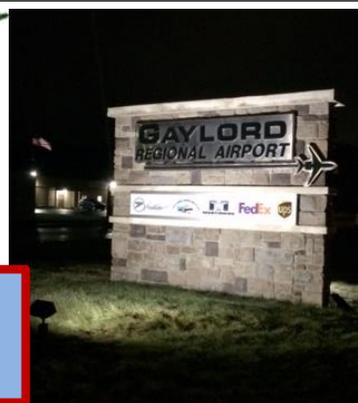
**Tigers In Town:** With the County's help we went from no courtesy cars for pilots to use in 2008 to now having four cars. A few of these cars will be getting a unique paint job in 2016, not only to identify them easily around town as being airport customers but to make some buzz in the visiting pilot community about the cars you drive if you travel to Gaylord. The shark-faced art of the "Flying Tigers" remains to this day the most recognizable image of combat aircraft. The Flying Tigers were the first U.S. Volunteer Squadron of World War II and many of the pilots had only flown small private planes. Special thanks to the Otsego County Administrator John Burt and Otsego County Sheriff Matt Nowicki for donating the vehicles in order to get aviation customers to local Gaylord businesses to eat, shop, attend a meeting or just enjoy our city and the Alpine Village!



**Of course we will talk Airshow:** Wings over Northern Michigan Gaylord 2016 is well into the planning stages and is shaping up to be all new and not the one you want to miss! The new official t-shirt is free to sponsors and for all others will be on sale in late January. Also for the first time we were able to adopt a military tradition and give a challenge coin to all the sponsors and volunteers, our own "boots on the ground" Challenge Coin to commemorate the event and their vital part in the airshows success!



From all of us at the Gaylord Regional Airport we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Let there be light!** It took two attempts but our airport sign on Van Tyle and Dickerson road is now visible at night.