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TRANSCONTINENTAL FLIGHT —

THIRD IN A SERIES ON MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AVIATION INDUSTRY

The first transcontinental flight across the United States was completed between September 17 and December 10, 1911, a total elapsed time of 84 days. The wood and fabric, 35-horsepower airplane designed by the Wright Brothers departed from Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, New York, and 82 air hours, 69 stops, and 4,200 miles later, arrived at Long Beach, California. The Air Commerce Act of 1926 (which led to the formation of the Federal Aviation Administration) regulated and standardized the commercial aviation industry to ensure passenger safety. The safe and efficient use of the nation's airspace and facilities are the linchpins of today's modern air travel.

The intervening decades brought thousands of step-by-step improvements in air service, each building on the next, each bringing innovation and commercial success to our worldwide carriers. Currently, hundreds of transcontinental and transoceanic flights are scheduled every day, with some distances exceeding 10,000 miles. Long-distance, intercontinental air service owes its beginnings to the pioneers and innovators who were not afraid to dream.

RICONDO & ASSOCIATES, INC., *an Aviation Consultancy*

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