



**J. Richard “Dick” Bennett
Pensacola Aviation Center
Pensacola, FL**

Mr. Bennett was born October 12, 1922 in Georgiana, Alabama. He grew up in Wilcox and Monroe counties, Alabama. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1943 with a B.S degree from the School of Commerce and Business Administration.

He was a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1940 – 1945. He flew many aircraft including the PR19, BT13, AT6, B24 and B29 while stationed at Southeastern Training command until after VJ Day. From 1945 until the present, he has been involved in the lumber manufacturing and timber business. He was also in aircraft sales for Montgomery Aviation from 1962-1969. He also served as Chairman of the Alabama Republican Party from 1969-1975.

He established Pensacola Aviation Center Inc. in 1977 which was known then as Hangar One-Pensacola. At its inception, Pensacola Aviation had 7 employees and today employees approximately 58 with an annual payroll of \$1.7 million.

Pensacola Aviation joined NATA, NBAA, and FATA in 1977. Dick Bennett has been a FATA board member and served as President in 1983.

In 1998, due to the expansion of Pensacola Regional Airport, Pensacola Aviation Center moved to the east side of the airport and built a \$2 million facility. Today the new facility has 108,328 square feet of hangar space and has 66 aircraft based at the facility. Services at Pensacola Aviation Center, Inc. include a flight schools, fuel sales (airline and ramp), parts and maintenance departments, storage, charter and testing department.

Pensacola Aviation Center has been an Exxon Avitat and Exxon Mobil dealer for 31 and won Exxon’s Gold Star Award 3 years.