

June 1, 2017

Contact: Tara Hernandez, Marketing & Communications Director  
(616) 233-6053 or [thernandez@grr.org](mailto:thernandez@grr.org)

## Gerald R. Ford International Airport Senior VP & COO Announces Retirement



(Above): GFIA Senior VP & COO Phil Johnson

**Grand Rapids, Mich.** – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) Senior Vice President & COO Phil Johnson has announced his retirement after more than 20 years at the Airport.

In his role at GFIA, Johnson has assisted the CEO in managing the day-to-day operations of the airport and directing airport activities. Johnson has also played a key role in assisting the airport in air service needs such as the addition of Southwest Airlines in 2013, and Allegiant Air in 2009, among others.

“Phil has been a valuable asset to our airport for more than two decades and we are thankful for his service,” said GFIA President & CEO Jim Gill. “He leaves behind a legacy of always working diligently to make our Airport the best it could be. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.”

Johnson has held a number of aviation related positions prior to beginning his airport management career in 1989. Among these are Systems Engineer for Hughes Aircraft Company - designing air defense and air traffic control systems; Air Traffic Control Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - controlling air traffic at Oakland Air Route



Traffic Control Center; and Manager, Aircraft Ground Services for National Air Enterprises - managing aircraft line service functions at a Fixed Base Operator (FBO).

In addition, Johnson is an Accredited Airport Executive with the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). He also holds professional affiliations with the Great Lakes Chapter of AAAE (GL-AAAE) and the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE).

“I have so many wonderful memories in my 22 years at the Ford Airport, and I feel blessed to call Grand Rapids home,” said Johnson. “It was a pleasure working with all of my coworkers over the years, and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and development within the Airport Authority.”

Johnson holds a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Azusa Pacific University, and an Associate of Science degree in Air Traffic Management from Mount San Antonio College.

Johnson’s last day with GFIA is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

For interviews, please contact Tara Hernandez.

###

### **About GFIA**

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) is the second busiest airport in Michigan. The airport served over 2.6 million passengers in 2016 and over 7,000 travelers pass through GFIA each day. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport offers nonstop service to 24 major market destinations with more than 120 daily nonstop flights. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is managed and operated by the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority. GFIA generates over \$3.1 billion in annual economic output throughout West Michigan, and employs over 1,500 people. For more information on GFIA visit: [www.flyford.org](http://www.flyford.org) or follow the airport on Twitter: @FlyGRFord