



Jesse D. Hayes IV

President

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An Airplane Safety Engineering Leader for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, an Eagle Scout and a 1985 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. As an aviator, he rose to the rank of major and logged over 3,300 flying hours in C-130E/H and HC-130P aircraft including 150 in combat during the Gulf War. Educated in Astronautical Engineering, he has led design, test and analysis projects for Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Constellation Programs at the NASA Johnson Space Center. He also led design safety work on the USAF KC-46A and the VC-25B Presidential Aircraft. He previously managed the Mission Assurance and Specialty Engineering Team for the P-8A Poseidon. Growing up in Houston, TX, he was first introduced to aviation by the Bronze Eagles Flying Club in 1968. His first solo was at the age of 15. He remained connected to general aviation while in the Air Force and helped start a new chapter of Black Pilots of America, Inc. (BPA): the Arkansas Thunderbirds. While living in Waco, TX, he started the Bronze Eagles Flying Club's Waco Region and the annual Waco Youth Fly-In. Now a resident of Washington State, he has introduced BPA to the Puget Sound area as President of the Red-Tailed Hawks Flying Club (RTH). Under his leadership RTH has grown to be the largest chapter in BPA and created a year-around youth program, two aviation camps and a formal flight training program – Red-Tailed Hawks FLY. With over 40 years of aviation and space operations experience, introducing youth to the aerospace industry is his ministry.