



HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON



9 November 1945

Charles E. Wilson, President  
The Air Power League  
Empire State Building  
New York 1, New York

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Army Air Forces has been looking forward to the establishment of a National Air Museum to provide permanently for the education of the public on the development of aviation by the display of all types of aircraft used in the Army, Navy and commercially from the Wright Brothers' first airplane through the B-29. I would like to enlist your aid in securing the opinion of the people of America through your members and agencies throughout the country, as to the establishment of such a museum.

We feel that the people of America should have easy access to aircraft and equipment which has historical, technical and educational value rather than having such treasured symbols and mementos scattered throughout the country. A display of equipment consisting of airplanes, armament, power plants, radio and radar, precision instruments, navigational aids, personal equipment and other items will make the museum interesting and beneficial from an educational as well as an historical viewpoint. This shrine to American aviation, we believe, will perform a great and distinguished service in preserving our aeronautical history and in educating the youth of America in the brilliant achievements of our scientists and airmen from the early days of aviation through the memorable exploits of the war.

If your organization would query its members as to their views and recommendations on the proposed museum, I believe that it would give us a solid start on the project. Some of the pertinent thoughts that enter my mind and which should be included in your letter or questionnaire would be the location of the museum and suggestions as to securing the necessary Congressional action. Further, I feel that immediate action is necessary while our country is still mindful of the tremendous role air power played in winning the war. The national viewpoint which you will furnish us will play an important part and justify the establishment of a National Air Museum. Such a permanent shrine devoted to unparalleled achievements would indeed be a fitting tribute to American aviation and its members who fought so valiantly and successfully in war and in peace to give America pre-eminence in the air in order that our nation might have peace and security.

Yours very sincerely,

H. H. ARNOLD  
Commanding General, Army Air Forces