To: 255A/Harry Verstynen

From: 115/A. G. Price

Subject: Request for the 737

Attached is a letter for your signature regarding the VA Aviation Museum's request for the 737.

If you will recall, the Seattle Museum of Flight already has a request for the aircraft to fill out their fleet of Boeing aircraft. They have everything but a 737 and the first one really appeals to them.

Boeing helps them maintain the equipment, of course. In fact, Boeing actually keeps some of them in flying condition. For example, Boeing is currently using the museum's 747 for a test program.

By regulation, the National Air and Space Museum has the first option on our old equipment, and we have asked them about our aircraft. While the aviation curators at the NASM would like to have our 737, they do not have the space for it. They like the second option of giving it to the Seattle Museum of Flight, since Boeing supports the museum so well.

Let me know if I can help further.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

A. G. Price
46124

cc: 112/Kristen Hessenius

bcc: 154/K. Credeur
115/C. Martin
Mr. Howell J. Parry, Jr. 
Deputy Director 
Administration & Support 
Science Museum of Virginia 
2500 West Broad Street 
Richmond, VA 23220-2054 

Dear Mr. Parry: 

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your May 23, 1994 request that our Boeing 737 research aircraft be donated to the Virginia Aviation Museum for public display. As you may be aware, the aircraft is still being used in our flight research program and is not available at this time. 

Although we have not made any definite plans regarding the future use of the aircraft, we appreciate your interest and will keep your request on file. Another major national museum has also made a formal request for the aircraft, and we have their request under consideration. 

Once again, thank you for your interest in our work. We continue to wish you and the Virginia Aviation Museum the very best. 

Sincerely, 

Harry A. Verstynen 
Chief, Flight Operations and Support Division
May 23, 1994

Mr. Harry Verstynen, Chief
Flight Operations & Support Division
Mall Stop 255 A, NASA Langley
Hampton, Virginia 23681-0001

Dear Mr. Verstynen:

I am writing on behalf of the Virginia Aviation Museum. It has been brought to our attention that the research aircraft used by NASA will be retired soon. The 737 which has been used for research by NASA has many significant historic credentials which qualify the aircraft for historic preservation. Being the first production model of the Boeing 737 would alone make the aircraft significant, but there are other reasons that make a convincing argument for preserving the aircraft for the citizens of Virginia.

The Virginia Aviation Museum's mission is to educate the public on the history of aviation and its impact on the Commonwealth of Virginia. NASA Langley and the 737 have had a great impact on aviation and the commonwealth as well.

If you have been to the Virginia Aviation Museum recently, you are aware that the museum was established around the collection of Sidney Shannon and the Shannon Air Museum of Fredericksburg. Being a collection of aircraft focused on the Golden Age of Aviation between the two world wars, the narrow spectrum of aviation has limited the reach of the museum. Since the acquisition of the Virginia Aviation Museum by the Science Museum of Virginia, the range of collections and exhibits has been expanded. Recently, a monument on the early use of hot air balloons was relocated to the museum taking the period of aviation back to the civil war. We have also acquired a LTV Corsair II, A-7D Air National Guard aircraft bringing us up to the recent years of military aviation.

More each year we add exhibits which are educational for all ages and we are striving to add more interactive exhibits for the visitors. Two years ago we had an exhibit by Northrup on "Designing Your Own Fighter" which is a computer CAD based interactive exhibit. Recently, we have introduced an interactive log book for the EAA Young Eagles Project In Virginia. All of this is to say that we have expanded our educational spectrum and our period of aviation covered.

The high technology and research aspects of the 737 are as appealing to us as educators as is the historic significance of the airframe. We hope that along with the aircraft would come...
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the marvelous "cockpit within" and the array of electronic data collection artifacts for visitor education. The inspirational value of this aircraft and its history are compelling.

Please consider our request favorably and support the acquisition or loan of the 737 to the Virginia Aviation Museum.

Sincerely,

Howell J. Parry, Jr.
Deputy Director
Administration & Support

P.S. Even before the aircraft is taken out of service, may we arrange a NASA visit with the aircraft to the museum for a weekend or a special educational event?

cc: Mr. Paul Holloway, Director, Langley Research Center
    Dr. Joel Levine
    Mr. George Steinmetz