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September 7, 2010

Mr. Frank Lennon
President, RI Aviation Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 28581
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Frank:

I am pleased at the progress your group has made over the past several months toward accomplishing your goal of bringing the former USS John F Kennedy to Aquidneck Island as a world-class family attraction, education center, job training facility, museum and memorial.

I agree with many others who proclaim Rhode Island as the most fitting place for the JFK's final resting site. Our proximity to a various large markets and Newport's established tourism draw offer significant economic benefits. In addition, your proposal offers significantly more potential for future success because of Newport County's advantages in location, population, tourism statistics and a number of other issues.

Narragansett Bay is also known as the birthplace of the American Navy, and over the past 235 years both Rhode Island and Newport County have developed a Navy history and tradition second to none. Rhode Island's historical connections with President Kennedy are also well recognized: his WWII training at Melville, his wedding in St. Mary's Church, and the Summer White House at Hammersmith Farm are notable just to name a few.

I share your desire to have Rhode Island be named the official site as soon as possible to avoid competition for scarce dollars and other resources. I am particularly impressed at the number of senior Navy officers (former skippers of the USS John F Kennedy) who I understand have expressed a clear preference for Newport County as the final home for this historic ship. As a member of the Kennedy family, I am pleased to add my voice to that chorus and strongly support your efforts to bring the JFK to Rhode Island in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,


Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress