



Torrance Airport: Jobs, Education, and Safety

The Value of our Community Airport

Historic Significance

- Torrance airport began its life as the Lomita Flight Strip preparing aviators to fight in World War II
 - WWII Nike missile command, control, and launch location
- Torrance dedicated the airport December 7 1946
- Airport renamed to memorialize WWII POW hero and a Torrance home-town track athlete Louis Zamperini, who attended the 1936 Berlin Olympics where he met Adolf Hitler. The General Aviation Center display commemorates Zamperini's track and war accomplishments.



Supporting a Beach City Lifestyle

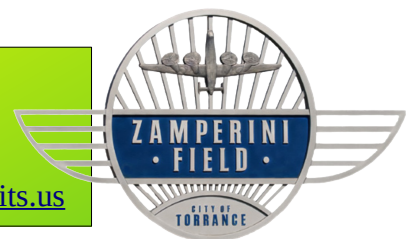
- Airport has grown many local businesses, some with no direct connection to aviation
- Airport businesses employ thousands and contributes many millions of dollars to city revenue
- Around every airport is a federally regulated protected area which controls the height of buildings
 - Torrance Airport airspace protects the entire South Bay from becoming another Miami Beach or Honolulu littered with 30 story buildings lining the beaches and boulevards
- Attracting visitors to the nearby beaches, shopping, and restaurants

Torrance Airport: A Community Resource Enjoyed By Everyone

- ✓ It is a critical resource in case of a local disaster
- ✓ Frequent family days with all-age specific events
- ✓ Active educational programs and activities for kids all ages
- ✓ It is home to the Western Museum of Flight (and the Local Celebrity Lecture Series)
- ✓ Mission Control for Southern California's premier formation flying team: the Tiger Squadron
- ✓ Home to several social clubs, flight schools, mechanic shops, and more which support Torrance business
- ✓ Robinson Helicopter Company world headquarters and manufacturing
- ✓ Home to Civil Air Patrol Senior and Cadet Squadrons
- ✓ A place where you can learn to fly an airplane or helicopter
- ✓ Torrance Airport is part of a national public air transportation system of over 19,000 public airports throughout the United States!



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/torrance.airport.benefits.us>



Torrance Airport has dedicated many locations to honor history, hero's, and aviation innovators!

Signage Names	Historical Significance
Roger Keeney	Charles Roger Keeney operated the oldest Fixed Base Operator (service center) from 1945-2011, one of KTOA founding fathers. Bought a B-25 from Howard Hughes, worked on Amelia Erhart's plane.
Lomita Flight Strip	The original name of today's Torrance Airport. During WW II it served as an overflow from the training base at Long Beach Airport.
P-38 Lightening	P-38 Lightening Squadrons (479 th Fighter Group) based at KTOA during WW II
Bob Hoover	World famous test pilot & aerobatic performer based his show plane (a "Shrike Commander") at Torrance airport. His fame is worldwide, his home was Torrance.
Nagel	John Nagel operated an enormous aircraft parts business where Robinson Helicopter is now located. He employed hundreds in Torrance.
Wing Derringer	George Wing developed and flew the first light twin engine plane after taking over in 1958 John Thorp's "Thorp T-17" a twin-engined version of his Thorp T-11 Sky Scooter. Wing also founded Hi-Shear Corp who employed a female test pilot.
Doak Aircraft	Edmund Doak built the predecessor to the Osprey VTOL. The propellor outside the General Administration building on the field side is his propellor invention.
Bob Herendeen	Bob was a two time US Aerobatic Champion in a Pitts Special. He first soloed and flew aerobatics at Torrance when he was 16. His wife Jacqueline was also a famous Aerobatic pilot. Their fame brought business and tourism to Torrance.
Nancy Clinton	Dedicated flight instructor, operated out of Torrance Airport and fought to protect the airport
Vegas Airways	Flew charter flights to Las Vegas in a DC-3 which required a very wide "lane" between the hangers for when it taxied from the hanger/terminal on PCH to the runway.
Slim Kidwell	Operated the first FBO at Lomita Flight Strip. He built the first row of T-hangers at the east end. He also owned a motel and popular a popular Torrance restaurant called "The Halfway House".
Sy Symons	A pilot who was flying in the Torrance area on Pearl Harbor day. He taught WWII pilots and founded Symons Engineering; a factory which built aircraft auxiliary fuel tanks in Torrance.
Bonanza	Known for unique design and performance there were many Bonanzas housed in Torrance.
Collins Dietrich	Actually "Collins-Dietrich Air Services Inc." Was the first company to manage the Lomita Flight Strip. They offered aircraft service & repair, motel, cafe, air taxi, rides, and more
Iris Critchell	WWII Woman Air Ferry Service (WAFS) pilot, knew Amelia Erhart, founded local 99's (women in aviation) chapter, air racer who brought the Powder Puff derby to Torrance twice.
Frank Robinson	Started Robinson Helicopter in his garage, he built it into the worlds largest helicopter company.
Civil Air Patrol	Search & Rescue regional squadron, pilots are trained volunteers sponsoring youth cadet programs too.
Tom Ishibashi	His family, interned during WWII, returned to Torrance and farmed between the runways for years putting all their children through college. Strong supporter of Torrance airport.
Sierra Sue	The S-1 aircraft designed and built in Torrance, hangs in the WMoF museum.
Acme Aircraft	The first FBO (Roger Keeney) at KTOA, specialized in aircraft weight & balance.
Eli Alexander	Known as "Mr. A", he was the long-time operator of an on airport Service Center (the Alex Air FBO)
Robin Olds	The only WWII and Vietnam ACE. Flew the P-38 at Torrance and conceived and flew Operation Bolo during the Vietnam War.
Nike Missile Base	The row faces the 3 Nike Missile silos that are still underground at the far east end of the airport. One is used today for practice drills by the Torrance Fire Department.