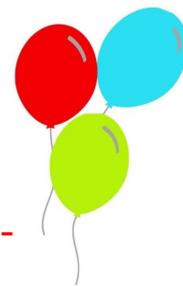




## Ralph C. Vilecca

### Executive Director of the Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of New Jersey



*I run a museum that promotes New Jersey's role in achieving innovative air and space accomplishments.*

#### **How long have you been involved with aviation and aerospace?**

Currently, I'm the Executive Director of the Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of New Jersey, and before that, I was the President from 2016-2018. I had a 27-year career with Honeywell Aerospace and was also an Adjunct Professor of Business & Technology at Farleigh Dickinson University from 1997 to 2019.

#### **Where do you work?**

The Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of New Jersey is located in Teterboro, NJ (<https://njahof.org/>).

#### **How do you spend most of your time at work?**

As Executive Director, I strive to carry out the Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of NJ's mission:

1. To educate the general public about New Jersey's unparalleled 230-year contribution to the development of human flight, engineering, and space exploration.
2. To encourage young people to consider careers in commercial or military aviation, aerospace engineering or aerospace.

More specifically, I'm focused on transitioning AHOF into a STEM center for the advancement of Aviation, Engineering and Space Exploration.

#### **Why did you choose this career?**

I've always loved technology, space, and aviation.

#### **What did you do to prepare for this career?**

I have degrees in Technology, Business and an Advanced Degree in Technical Communication, as well as extensive training in Logistics Engineering.

#### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Communicating, teaching and history of aviation.

#### **What do you find most challenging about your job?**

Running a non-profit museum.

#### **What was one of your first jobs and how did that experience influence your career path?**

I was a caddie at a golf course, and later, working in retail, I learned that to do a good job, the customer must always come first!

#### **What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?**

Do what you love and learn everything you can, and you will be a success!!

#### **RALPH'S FUN FACTS**

*I enjoy photography and reading. My favorite book is Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand, and my favorite movie is The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.*



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