



# Member Update

## In Memoriam: Joe Bellino, Former NATCA Executive Vice President

It is with profound sadness and deep respect that we remember Joe Bellino, former Executive Vice President of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), whose life and legacy continue to inspire the aviation community and all those who knew him. Joe, who passed away on Thursday, January 9, was a steadfast leader, a tenacious negotiator, and a dedicated advocate for the safety and well-being of air traffic controllers.



*In Memoriam:*

Joe Bellino,

Former NATCA Executive Vice President

Joe's career was defined by his unwavering commitment to the profession he loved and the people he served. Joe, who began his career as an air traffic

controller in 1968, was the first developmental at O'Hare Tower/TRACON to join the recently formed Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO). He was also a charter member of NATCA's first National Executive Board after being elected Great Lakes Regional Vice President (RVP) in the 1988 election, a position he had held since 1986. In 1991, Joe was elected Executive Vice President of the Union and served in that role until 1994.

His leadership was marked by his tireless dedication to improving the working conditions, safety standards, and professional recognition of air traffic controllers across the nation. He was instrumental in shaping policy, negotiating contracts, and defending the rights of the workforce he cared for so deeply.

As we mourn the loss of Joe Bellino, we also celebrate his remarkable contributions to the air traffic control profession and to the lives he touched. His work, his values, and his spirit live on in the many lives he impacted, and in the ongoing mission of NATCA to advocate for the safety, rights, and dignity of air traffic controllers.

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