



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Gary / Chicago International Airport Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> International Flight**  
*Flight Caps Key Milestone for New First-Class Aviation Facility*

**(Gary, Indiana – July 2, 2019)** – On Tuesday, June 24 at 8:29 p.m., Gary/Chicago International Airport (GYY) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> international flight, capping a key milestone for the newly opened Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Facility. Since opening the permanent, state-of-the-art facility in October of 2018, air travelers have been able to fly into the airport from any global destination without needing to stop elsewhere to clear customs and GYY has averaged approximately eight (8) landings per month.

“Our new customs facility opened entirely new international markets for the airport, its tenants and our users,” said **GY Authority Chairman Tim Fesko**. “We continue to invest in the airport, with the customs facility being the latest effort to further grow our attractiveness to a host of air travelers.”

The late 2018 opening of the customs and border facility is the newest such facility in the Chicago Metropolitan Area and represents the latest improvement made to GYY, following the 2015 expansion of the main runway to give the airport the region’s second longest runway after O’Hare International Airport.

“The CBP facility helps secure our position as the premier mid-sized airport for the Chicago region and we are very pleased at the frequency the facility is being used,” stated **Duane Hayden, Executive Director of GYY**. “We are seeing strong returns on our ongoing investments at the airport, and as a result the airport is now a preferred destination among corporate and executive air fliers.”

The convenient location of the airport, located just 25 miles and typically less than a 40-minute drive to downtown Chicago, has been key asset in allowing the airports fixed-base operators (FBO’s) to attract international fliers.

“Having an on-site CBP facility is a great asset to our customers, who appreciate being able to fly directly from any global location and quickly move on to their destination in the Chicago region without first needing to stop elsewhere to clear customs,” said **B. Coleman Aviation President John Girzadas**.

The GYY customs facility is notable for the variety of air travelers that have used GYY since the opening of the facility, as fliers from throughout Canada, Europe, the Caribbean, Central and South America have utilized the facility.

“The new facility has really helped our ability to attract international general aviation and corporate travelers and proves Gary / Chicago International Airport is becoming the airport of choice in the region among these fliers,” added **Gary Jet Center President Lynn Eplawy**.



### ***CBP Instructions for Airport Users***

*The facility is an on-call General Aviation CBP facility. Pilots or flight departments are required to notify U.S. CBP officials at least 72 hours prior to arrival at GYY and an estimated time of arrival is required. **Facility officials can be reached at 773-948-6330.** All pilots and passengers must clear U.S. Customs and Immigration inspection upon entering the United States from a foreign country. The maximum number of crew and passengers per aircraft that will be allowed to clear customs is 20 individuals total. All user instructions and fees can be found at [FlyGYY.com/us-customs-facility](https://www.flygyy.com/us-customs-facility).*

### ***About Gary/Chicago International Airport***

*Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GYY) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. To learn more, visit the airport's new website at [FlyGYY.com](https://www.flygyy.com).*

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