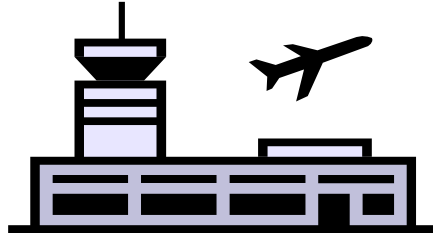


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NEWS RELEASE

NORWOOD MEMORIAL AIRPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Norwood, MA — December 21, 2018 — At its public meeting yesterday, the Norwood Airport Commission (NAC) voted to re-name its snow removal equipment/administration building in honor of retired U.S. Marine Corps Major Mark C. Welch.

Major Welch was the son of Joe and Anita Welch, who still live in Norwood. He grew up on Barberry Lane and attended St. Catherine’s School, before moving on to Xaverian High School in Westwood, then the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, where he graduated in 1993.

As a helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps, Major Welch served two tours of duty in Iraq, with other assignments that included Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo. While closer to home, his was the first naval air attachment to provide relief to Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005.

Over the course of his 20-year career, Major Welch received four Presidential Unit Citation awards for heroism, plus the National Defense Service Medal, Naval and Marine Achievement Medal and Kosovo Service Medal.

According to NAC Chairman, Mark Ryan, “*The Major Mark C. Welch Administration Building* carries the name of someone we can all be proud of—a highly decorated helicopter pilot and veteran, who also was a native son.”

Major Welch passed away on April 10, 2016, at age 44.

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