History of Aviation in Florida

Date/Time: Saturday, April 8, 2023 @ 10:00 am

Place: Anderson-Price Building, 42 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Presented By: Stephen G. Craft

Event Type: In-Person

Free Admission: (Open to the Public)



This presentation will focus on the early development of aviation in Florida especially commercial airlines and military aviation in the first half of the 20th century before transitioning to discuss post-WWII rocket testing that laid a foundation for the space program of the 1950s and 1960s.

Stephen Craft was born and raised in Covington, Virginia. From 1987-1990, he attended Ohio University where he pursued an M.A. in History, with a focus on East Asian History and U.S.

History. In 1990, he began pursuing a Ph.D. in History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he focused on International History (European & US diplomatic history). From 1993-1998, Dr. Craft lived in Taiwan where he did dissertation research, and taught history and political science as well as English part-time at Tunghai University. In 1997, upon completion of the Ph.D., he taught for a year at Wen-Tsao University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. In 1998-99, Dr. Craft taught East Asian history at Valparaiso University in northwest Indiana. Since January 2000, he has been a professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach and is a member of the Security Studies and International Affairs department. He is the author of three books including Embry-Riddle at War: Aviation Training During World War II.

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