

**James L. Bland**  
**Gretna, Virginia**



James L. Bland's contributions to the development of aviation infrastructure in Virginia and the United States are important and far-reaching. Jim is a native of Gretna, Virginia and graduated from VPI & SU with a degree in civil engineering. In 1968 Jim joined the Virginia State Corporation Commission's Division of Aeronautics as an airport engineer. From 1971 through 1974 Jim moved to the airport engineering firm of Dewberry, Nealon and Davis where he was in charge of construction and participated in the design and planning of airports across Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. In 1974 Jim returned to the Virginia Division of Aeronautics where he developed the first Virginia Air Transportation plan, the state's air facilities and equipment plan and the department's priority system for ranking capital improvement projects. As manager of the Airports Services Division, Jim managed all financial assistance programs for the capital improvement and maintenance for all Virginia public use airports. Jim's planning and funding expertise was put to use when he led the installation in Virginia of the largest non-federal airport navigational aid system east of the Mississippi River. Jim's talents were not limited to Virginia as he was called on to work with other state aviation departments as they organized and put in place their own aviation programs. James L. Bland's career-spanning record of contributions to the development of our aviation infrastructure has been significant and lasting. Anyone who travels by air in the State of Virginia and the United States has benefited greatly from the time and talents of Jim Bland.