



PROFESSIONAL AVIATION SAFETY SPECIALISTS

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Founded 1977

David J. Spero Biography

David J. Spero is currently serving his first term as the National President of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS), AFL-CIO. Prior to being elected national president in 2021, Spero was the Region II Vice President, elected by the members to serve six three-year terms in that position, representing Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Organization employees in the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico.

PASS represents more than 11,000 employees of the FAA and the Department of Defense who install, maintain, support and certify air traffic control and national defense equipment, inspect and oversee the commercial and general aviation industries, develop flight procedures and perform quality analyses of the aviation systems.

A native of Buffalo, New York, President Spero has been a committed public servant his entire career. After joining the U.S. Air Force, Spero attended technical school at Keesler Air Force Base to become an air traffic control radar specialist. He was subsequently assigned to the 2021st Communications Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base. During his military tenure, Spero maintained proper operation of the air traffic control radar and ancillary systems at the Tyndall radar approach control (RAPCON) supporting the mission of the Air Force Air Defense Weapons Center.

After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, President Spero continued his public service at the FAA as an airways transportation systems specialist. His work consisted of the certification and maintenance of electrical systems integral to the movement of aircraft for the nation's air traffic control system. Those systems included radar, computer automation, communications and weather data for pilots and air traffic controllers.

Joining PASS not long after arriving at the FAA, President Spero quickly became active in the union, serving as a local chapter president and union representative. In 2003, he was elected to his first term as Region II Vice President. As a member of PASS's Executive Board, President Spero helped to guide the union in its governance and in its negotiations with the FAA on collective bargaining agreements. In 2009, he graduated from the National Labor College with a bachelor's degree in Union Leadership and Administration and was recognized with a Distinguished Senior Paper Award.

As National President, Spero is responsible for leading the policy of the union and advocating for the needs and workplace rights of PASS bargaining unit employees. He meets regularly with senior FAA officials as well as members of Congress who serve on committees related to federal employee issues, aviation safety and agency funding, staffing and resources. He is actively working with the agency and lawmakers to adopt strategic workforce plans so that employees have the training, resources and staffing to properly support the National Airspace System and ultimately, the American flying public and taxpayers.