



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Stephen Alterman, Ali Bahrami, Maj Gen Charles Bolden, Jeff Hamiel, Jack Pelton, and Phil Woodruff Selected as Distinguished Statesmen of Aviation**

**Washington, DC, October 2, 2017** – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2017 Wesley L. McDonald Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Award: Stephen Alterman, Ali Bahrami, Maj Gen Charles Bolden, Jeff Hamiel, Jack Pelton, and Phil Woodruff.

The Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Award was established in 1954 by the Board of Directors of the NAA. The award honors "... outstanding Americans who, by their efforts over an extended period of years, have made contributions of significant value to aeronautics and have reflected credit upon America and themselves."

**Stephen Alterman** has dedicated his entire career to aviation, and specifically the past 42 years to protecting the interests of the all-cargo air carrier industry. In 1975 he joined the Cargo Airline Association (then known as the Air Freight Forwarders Association) and in 1982, he took on the role as President. With his commitment to policymaking and foresight of the industry, Alterman has consistently played a leading role in aviation and made significant contributions towards the advancement of air cargo.

**Ali Bahrami** is the former Vice President for Civil Aviation for the Aerospace Industries Association. He currently serves as the Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Bahrami's leadership, dedication, and collaborative work, throughout his career have helped to advance the safety of global civil aviation by validating new commercial aircraft systems and promoting international cooperation on aviation safety issues.

**Maj Gen Charles Bolden** has devoted his career to serving the nation as a U.S. Naval Aviator and Commanding General, a NASA Astronaut, and the 12<sup>th</sup> NASA Administrator. In each era of his career, he demonstrated exemplary leadership, vision, and dedication to making the future of our world safer, more knowledgeable, and more secure. He has steadfastly defended the importance of human flight, discovery, and understanding of our planet, which are crucial to sustaining and advancing the quality of life around the globe.

**Jeff Hamiel** served in a variety of roles at the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) in Minnesota for the past 40 years. Under his guidance, he helped MAC navigate a complex and difficult terrain at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport and six general aviation airports including deregulation and growth in air service, airline economic struggles, bankruptcies and mergers, and

aviation security post September 11, 2001. Hamiel has also given back to the aviation industry through leadership positions in government-sponsored research programs and industry associations.

**Jack Pelton** has an extensive and renowned career in aviation including serving as the current Chairman and CEO of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and past Chairman and CEO of Cessna Aircraft Co. from 2003 to 2011. He also worked with Douglas Aircraft and Dornier Aircraft, and is an acknowledged leader in the aviation community through his work with the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), and the National Air and Space Museum.

**Phil Woodruff** has made significant contributions within aviation throughout his career as Director of Education for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). His efforts led to the creation of new aviation education programs in every state, including opening over 100 Aerospace Education Resource Centers for teachers and Aviation Career Education Academies for youth. His dedication and leadership strengthened partnerships among government, industry, and education.

Members of the 2017 Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Selection Committee were: Jim Albaugh, Chairman of NAA; and former Distinguished Statesman recipients George Carneal (2009), Dr. Peggy Chabrian (2016), Ken Gazzola (2015), Carol Hallett (2003), Leo Schefer (2002), Jeffrey Shane (2014), Murray Smith (2014), Barry Valentine (2010), and Jim Wilding (2006). Greg Principato, President & CEO of NAA, served as the Selection Committee Chair.

The Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Awards will be presented at NAA's Fall Awards Ceremony on November 29, 2017 in the Washington D.C. area. For more information, please visit [www.naa.aero](http://www.naa.aero).

*The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of some of the most important aviation awards in the world, and certifies all national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit [www.naa.aero](http://www.naa.aero).*

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