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NAA HONORS JANICE BARDEN, RALPH CROSBY, HUGH RISSEEUW, BRUCE WHITMAN, AND MATT ZUCCARO WITH 2013 DISTINGUISHED STATESMAN OF AVIATION AWARDS

Washington, DC, September 25, 2013 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) announced the recipients of the 2013 Wesley L. McDonald Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Awards. Janice Barden, Ralph Crosby, Hugh Risseeuw, Bruce Whitman and Matt Zuccaro will be honored at the NAA Fall Awards Dinner on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

The Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Award was established in 1954 to honor outstanding Americans, who, by their efforts over a period of years, have made contributions of significant value to aeronautics and have reflected credit upon America and themselves.

In 1971, **Janice K. Barden** leveraged her 16 years as a professional aviation psychologist to create Aviation Personnel International (API) - the first female owned and operated retained search firm designed exclusively to serve the hiring needs of private and business aviation professionals. Since its establishment, it has contributed immeasurably to the entire aviation industry. An Industrial Psychologist, Barden developed the company's Psychological Testing Program, a successful battery that has evolved into API's PEQ (Professional Evaluation Quotient), which assesses aviation professionals/candidates based on 17 factors.

API is the longest-running aviation recruiting business, exclusively serving the hiring needs of flight departments in corporate and private aviation to include senior aviation leaders, pilots, maintenance, cabin safety crew, schedulers, and dispatchers.

For over three decades, **Ralph Crosby** has been involved in the management and leadership of aerospace.

Crosby served as Chairman and CEO of EADS North America from 2002 to 2009 and, in this position, was responsible for augmenting the presence of EADS in the United States, developing strategic partnerships with U.S. companies, and enhancing the involvement of EADS in the U.S. marketplace. Today he serves as a member of the EADS Executive Committee as well as Chairman Emeritus.

Previously, Crosby was President of the Integrated Systems Sector of Northrop Grumman Corporation, a position he held since establishing the Sector in 1998. Prior to that role, Crosby was Corporate Vice President and General Manager of the B-2 Division. Joining Northrop Grumman in 1981 as Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Marketing and Technology, Crosby was named Executive Director of the company's Washington Office in 1983. From there Crosby held numerous positions within the company, including Deputy General Manager of its Commercial Aircraft Division in April 1996 and General Manager in September 1996.

Prior to his industry career, Crosby served as an officer in the U.S. Army with duty in Germany, Vietnam and the United States. In his last military assignment he was the Military Staff Assistant to the Vice President of the United States.

Throughout his career, **Hugh Risseeuw** has been a leading advocate of military aviation as a pilot, corporate executive, and industry leader. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Risseeuw flew with fighter squadrons VF-111, VF-213, and VF-126 - amassing over 3,500 hours of flight time and 350 carrier landings in fighter and attack aircraft, including the A-4, F-4, and F-8. Flying the venerable F-4 Phantom II, he was selected to be one of the Navy's first aggressor pilots in a flight tactics school that eventually became known as "*Top Gun*." He was awarded numerous Air Medals for his heroic airmanship in combat, the Vietnamese Service medal (for two combat tours), and a host of unit commendations.

Upon his retirement from Naval Service in 1985, Risseeuw joined Pratt & Whitney where he eventually served as the Director of Navy and Marine Corps Programs in the Washington Office until his retirement in 2011. During this time, Risseeuw participated in the development and successful fielding of the F119-PW-100 and P&W F135 engines as well as the successfully fielding an Aft Lift Fan Nozzle (a project which was awarded the 2001 Collier Trophy).

Bruce Whitman joined FlightSafety International in 1961 as Assistant to the President and, later that year, was elected Vice President and a Director of the company. In 1962, he was named Executive Vice President and, in 2003, was named President and CEO.

Under his leadership, FlightSafety provides more than a million hours of training each year to over 75,000 pilots, technicians and other aviation professionals from 154 countries and independent territories. They operate the world's largest fleet of advanced full flight simulators at Learning Centers and training locations in Asia, Europe, North and South America, the Pacific Rim and South Africa.

Whitman has served on the Associate Membership Advisory Council of the National Business Aircraft Association and Board of Governors and Executive Committees of the Flight Safety Foundation and the Civil Air Patrol. He is also a former Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee of Petroleum Helicopters and chaired the Nominating, Compensation and Governance Committees of the Aviall Board of Directors. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of FlightSafety Boeing Training International and Board of Governors of the Aerospace Industries Association.

Whitman is currently a Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee of PASSUR Aerospace; Co-Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation; a Director of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association; an Executive Committee member of NATA's Air Charter Safety Foundation Board of Governors; a Director and member of the Executive Committee of ORBIS International and a Director Emeritus of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. He is Vice Chairman of the Air Force Academy Falcon Foundation; President of The Wings Club; a Trustee and member of the Executive

Committee of the National World War II Museum and Trustee of Kent School; member of the Harvard Medical School Immunology Advisory Council; member of the Boards of Business Executives for National Security, Corporate Angel Network and the USO of Metropolitan New York.

Matt Zuccaro has served as President of the Helicopter Association International (HAI) since 2005 and, under his leadership, HAI has become one of the fastest-growing aerospace organizations in the world as well as the leading advocates of the rotorcraft industry. A relentless advocate of safety, he has established a vision for the rotorcraft industry of 100 percent accident-free operations and he strives daily to achieve it.

Zuccaro's 40-year career in the helicopter industry has included several field and executive level positions with corporate, commercial, airline, and law enforcement helicopter operations in the New York City area. During his tenure with the Port Authority of New York, Zuccaro served as Senior Pilot, Operations Supervisor of their New York City Heliports, and Operations Supervisor at Kennedy International Airport.

Zuccaro is a highly-decorated Army helicopter pilot: first serving in Vietnam with the 7th of the 17th Air Cavalry, then as a flight and classroom instructor at the Army flight school at Fort Rucker.

Zuccaro holds Airline Transport Pilot and Instrument Flight Instructor Certificates for both helicopter and fixed wing. He is the recipient of HAI's 10,000-hour pilot safety award and the NBAA Pilot Safety Award.

Members of the Distinguished Statesman Selection Committee included three previous recipients of the Award - Walter Boyne, Chairman of NAA; Dick Koenig; and Henry Ogradzinski, President and CEO, National Association of State Aviation Officials. Also serving on the Committee were Skip Ringo, The Ringo Group; Bob Blouin, VP Industry Affairs, Beechcraft Corporation; and Mary Miller, VP, Industry and Government Affairs, Signature Flight Support/BBA Aviation. Jonathan Gaffney, President and CEO of the National Aeronautic Association, served as Chairman of the Committee.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering America's aerospace leadership and promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.

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