



**Contact:           Cassandra Bosco**  
**202-415-2798**  
**cbosco@naa.aero**

## **NAA Honors Aviation Legend Joe Kittinger at June Luncheon**

Washington, DC, June 10, 2013 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that Colonel Joseph Kittinger, USAF, (Ret.) has been selected to receive the 2013 Cliff Henderson Trophy. The Trophy will be presented at NAA's June luncheon on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

The Cliff Henderson Trophy, which resides at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, was established in 1960 by the National Aviation Club (now part of NAA) to honor the creator and Managing Director of the world-renowned National Air Races from 1928-1939. His work stimulated a generation's interest in aviation and challenged the state of the art in aviation development.

In that spirit, the trophy is awarded to "...a living individual, group of individuals, or an organization whose vision, leadership or skill made a significant and lasting contribution to the promotion and advancement of aviation and aerospace in the United States." Previous recipients include Joe Lombardo, Marion Blakey, The United States Air Force Academy, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle, Senator Barry M. Goldwater, Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson, and Scott Crossfield.

On August 16, 1960, Joe Kittinger became an aviation pioneer with the "highest step in the world" when he made history as he ascended to 102,800 feet in a high-altitude balloon and jumped to Earth. During a distinguished Air Force career, Colonel Kittinger served as a test pilot, Squadron Commander, and Vice Wing Commander. In addition, he spent 11 months as a

POW in Vietnam. After retiring from the Air Force he set two world ballooning records and won numerous ballooning competitions. Joe is a National Aeronautics Association Distinguished Statesman of Aviation; was awarded a Lifetime Achievement in Aviation trophy from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum; was made an Honorary U.S. Army Golden Knight; and is enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the U.S. Ballooning Hall of Fame, and the National Skydiving Museum Hall of Fame. To date, Joe has logged more than 16,800 hours of flying time in over 93 aircraft. His adventures are detailed in his autobiography, *Come Up and Get Me*.

Most recently, Colonel Kittinger served as Capsule Communications ("Capcom") as Mission Control's primary point of radio contact with Felix Baumgartner and the Red Bull Stratos Project which set three world records in 2012.

"There is absolutely no one more worthy of this great honor," said Walter Boyne, Chairman of the National Aeronautic Association. "Throughout his remarkable career, Joe has demonstrated bravery, skill, expertise, and a willingness to share his remarkable experience with generations of aviation and aerospace professionals."

To register for the luncheon, please visit our Web site at [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 several major aviation awards, and certifies all world and national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit [www.naa.aero](http://www.naa.aero)*

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