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Michael Huerta to Receive the 2018 Cliff Henderson Trophy

Washington, DC, February 16, 2018 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that Michael Huerta, former Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 Cliff Henderson Trophy.

The Henderson Trophy, which is in the collection of the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum, was established in 1960 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.

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.” A deserving nominee is put forth annually by the President of the National Aeronautic Association to NAA’s Executive Committee for confirmation by majority vote.

Previous recipients of the Cliff Henderson Trophy include Colonel Joseph Kittinger, Marion Blakey, The United States Air Force Academy, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle, Senator Barry M. Goldwater, Clarence L. “Kelly” Johnson, Scott Crossfield, and the 2017 recipient – Angela Gittens.

Michael Huerta served as the Administrator of the FAA from January 2013 to January 2018, where he was responsible for the safety and efficiency of the largest aerospace system in the world. Huerta managed a \$16 billion budget and more than 47,000 employees, while ensuring the agency and its employees are the best prepared and trained professionals to meet the growing demands and requirements of the industry.

During his tenure, Huerta redefined the FAA’s regulatory relationship with the aviation industry to achieve greater levels of safety through increased collaboration and widespread sharing of data. He also led the agency’s efforts to modernize the nation’s air traffic control system through the NextGen program while preparing the way for the safe integration of commercial space operations and small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). He is also well known for eliminating

the decades old ban on the use portable electronic devices aboard airplanes during takeoff and landing making it possible to use many devices from gate to gate.

Prior to his role as Administrator, Huerta served as Acting Administrator from December 2011 to January 2013 and Deputy Administrator from June 2010 to December 2011. From 2002 to 2009, Huerta was Group President of the Transportation Solutions Group at Affiliated Computer Services, now Conduent, specializing in business processes and information technology.

Previously, Huerta worked as Managing Director of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, where he was instrumental in preparing Salt Lake City's transportation outlets for the Olympics. He was involved in the planning and construction of a variety of Olympic transportation facilities, as well as the development of a highly successful travel demand management system that made sure that the transportation system operated safely and efficiently.

“The Henderson Trophy is awarded to recognize a significant and lasting contribution to the promotion and advancement of aviation and aerospace in the United States,” stated Greg Principato, President and CEO of NAA. “I think Michael Huerta is the epitome of what the award seeks to honor. His ability to work with all aspects of the aviation industry, and with political leaders on both sides of the aisle is well known. Under his leadership, we have moved forward on big challenges such as incorporating UAVs into the airspace and moving forward on NextGen. NAA is pleased to celebrate all Michael has done to improve American aviation.”

“I am honored to be awarded the Cliff Henderson Trophy for 2018,” said Huerta. “It is humbling to join the ranks of many great leaders in aviation who have been recognized over the years. I appreciate the partnership I have enjoyed with NAA and its members over the years to help ensure that America’s aviation industry is the best in the world.”

NAA will present the trophy to Huerta at a date and location to be determined. For more information, please visit 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.

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