



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Ninety-Nines to Receive the 2019 Cliff Henderson Trophy**

**Washington, DC, January 22, 2019** – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that The Ninety-Nines has been selected as the recipient of the 2019 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 2018 recipient – Michael Huerta.

Founded in 1929 at Curtiss Field in Long Island, New York, The Ninety-Nines (named after the number of women who were charter members of the organization), is an international organization of women pilots that promotes the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support, while honoring their unique history and sharing their passion for flight.

With over 150 chapters spanning six continents, The Ninety-Nines connect with local communities across the globe in support of their mission. The organization uses aviation to bolster STEM classes for youth, sponsors pilot safety seminars, hosts annual “fly-outs,” awards scholarships to members to further their accomplishments, and preserves the history and honors

the achievements of women in aviation at their Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City and the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas.

“The For nearly 60 years, the Henderson Trophy has honored ‘significant and lasting contributions to the promotion and advancement of aviation in the United States,’” said Greg Principato, President, NAA. “The Ninety-Nines exemplify what the Henderson Trophy is all about. For 90 years they have been dedicated to, and effectively worked to fulfill, the proposition that U.S. aviation succeeds best when ALL with the passion and talent can participate and contribute. It will be a true honor to present the Henderson Trophy to The Ninety-Nines, all the more so because of Cliff Henderson’s association with The Ninety-Nines in the organization’s early days.”

“The Ninety-Nines’ association with Cliff Henderson can be traced to its inception,” said Jan McKenzie, International President of The Ninety-Nines. “His support of women’s participation in the National Air Races in 1929 provided the venue for the women racers to lay the foundation for the formation of the world’s first, and now oldest, organization exclusively for women pilots. We are thrilled to be named as the recipient of the 2019 Henderson Trophy and recognized for our 90 years of promoting aviation through the advancement of women pilots.”

NAA will present the Henderson Trophy to The Ninety-Nines at their 90<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference in Dayton, Ohio in July 2019. 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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