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Contact: Stephanie Griffith
703-416-4888 Ext 104
awards-events@naa.aero

AOPA's You Can Fly Program to Receive the 2019 Brewer Trophy

Washington, D.C., October 3, 2019– The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's (AOPA) You Can Fly program has been selected as the recipient of the 2019 Frank G. Brewer Trophy. The trophy was established in 1943 to honor "... significant contributions of enduring value to aerospace education in the United States."

The You Can Fly program is being recognized "... for fostering an appreciation of general aviation flying by working to make it more accessible and affordable to all."

You Can Fly is a multi-faceted program that is composed of four initiatives: high school curriculum, flight training, flying clubs, and rusty pilots. Since the initiative's inception in 2015, the program has welcomed back over 7,500 rusty pilots, started more than 120 flying clubs, and recognized hundreds of flight instructors and flight schools for their exceptional training experiences.

Perhaps the most impactful portion of the program is the high school aviation and STEM curriculum, which was developed to instill a love of flying to young people and prepare students for careers in general aviation and aerospace. In just a few short years, the program has introduced several thousand students and scores of schools to opportunities in aviation. It has given away millions of dollars in flight training scholarships with the ultimate goal of welcoming new pilots into the aviation community, regardless of their background or economic status.

Currently, over 2,000 students in private, public, urban, and rural schools from across the country partake in the You Can Fly initiative at no cost, with female students representing 25% of participants and underrepresented groups accounting for 52%.

As the need for pilots, engineers, scientists, and technicians continues to grow, AOPA's You Can Fly program is just getting started in inspiring students from all walks of life and providing them the education needed to secure jobs in aviation. However, the program does more than assist the

aviation industry in achieving its numerical goals, it provides extraordinary experiences that engage, motivate, and create future opportunities.

“The National Aeronautic Association is looking forward to presenting the 2019 Brewer Trophy to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association for their terrific You Can Fly program,” said NAA President, Greg Principato. “At a time when everyone is looking for ways to attract young people to learning about aviation, AOPA is out there actually doing it. The fact that so many of the students in the program are female and so many are from underserved populations was an important factor in this selection. We cannot afford to overlook anyone in building a better future for aviation, and the AOPA program will help ensure we don’t.”

“You Can Fly is changing the face of aviation by breaking through barriers and welcoming students from all backgrounds and demographics,” said AOPA President and CEO Mark Baker. “If you look around at the thousands of high schoolers eager to learn about careers in aerospace, it’s easy to see just how this program has made a difference, not just in the industry, but with each new pilot who is setting the course for their future. I am so proud of what we’ve accomplished with the support of our donors, and I’m honored that the National Aeronautic Association is recognizing the impact You Can Fly has had.”

Serving on the 2019 Brewer Trophy selection committee were:

- Frank Brewer, The Brewer Family
- Robert Brewer, The Brewer Family
- Dick Koenig, Commemorative Air Force and NAA Board of Directors
- Elizabeth Matarese, NAA Board of Directors
- Georgia Pappas, The Aero Club of New England

The Brewer Trophy will be presented at the NAA Fall Awards Dinner on November 12, 2019 in Arlington, Virginia. For more information or to view a complete list of previous recipients, 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 aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit www.naa.aero.

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