NAA ANNOUNCES MSGT KIMBERLY L. MUHLECKE TO RECEIVE 2010 KATHARINE WRIGHT AWARD

Arlington, Virginia, August 10, 2010 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) announced that United States Air Force Master Sergeant Kimberly L. Muhlecke will receive the prestigious Katharine Wright Award.

This award is presented annually to a woman who has contributed to the success of others, or made a personal contribution to the advancement of the art, sport and science of aviation and space flight over an extended period of time. The award was named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright’s sister, Katharine, who was a crucial supporter of her brothers’ timeless work in the development of the first airplane.

“We are extremely proud of the selection of Master Sergeant Muhlecke as the recipient of the 2010 Katherine Wright Trophy,” said Jonathan Gaffney, President and CEO of NAA and Chairman of the Selection Committee. “While we had an extremely competitive group of nominations from throughout the United States, the Committee was unanimous that the remarkable work and career of Master Sergeant Muhlecke was deserving of this very important award.”

As an Air Force Aerospace Physiological Technician, Master Sergeant Muhlecke commenced her career in 1992 and, in the past 18 years, has become one of the leading experts in the fields of physiology training, human performance training, altitude chamber training, endurance management, and U-2 pressure suit operations. Her dedication, drive, and energy resulted in increasing responsibilities throughout her career and the training of thousands of Air Force personnel in her fields of expertise. According to her nomination, her efforts to increase efficiency and readiness have saved the Air Force hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In addition to Mr. Gaffney also serving on the Selection Committee were Wichita Aero Club President Dave Franson, NAA Board member Elizabeth Matarese, Airbus General Counsel Renee Martin-Nagle, 99s Past President Pat Prentiss, and NAA Contest and Records Board member and Northwest Airlines retired 747 captain Sandy Anderson.

The award will be presented at the NAA Fall Awards Banquet on Monday, November 8, 2010, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

_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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