TWO ACTIVE DUTY U.S. AIR FORCE COLONELS TO RECEIVE 2009 NAA STINSON AWARD

Washington, DC, January 5, 2010 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that Lieutenant Colonel Jean E. Havens, USAF, and Lieutenant Colonel Jeannie Leavitt, USAF, have been selected to receive the 2009 Katherine and Marjorie Stinson Award.

“With the largest group of nominees in memory for this great award, it was a unanimous decision of the Selection Committee to present two awards this year,” noted NAA President Jonathan Gaffney. “We have two very worthy winners and we are extremely proud of them.”

The Stinson Award was created in 1997 by the National Aviation Club (now part of NAA) to honor the accomplishments of two sisters -- Katherine and Marjorie Stinson. These sisters were among the first 11 American women to be certified as airplane pilots through the Aero Club of America (the predecessor of NAA). Their flying school helped numerous U.S. and foreign pilots to earn their Aero Club licenses, the precursor to FAA pilot certificates. The award recognizes a living woman for an outstanding and enduring contribution, a meritorious flight, or a singular technical development in the field of aviation, aeronautics, space or related sciences. It is one of the most important awards in aviation in America.

In 1993, Lt. Col. Jeannie Leavitt, blazed a path as America’s first female fighter pilot. She rose to the position of squadron commander, training tomorrow’s warriors and has paved the way for women in military flight through groundbreaking achievements through her remarkable and continuing Air Force career.

Lt. Col. Jean Havens’ enduring contributions during her 18-year Air Force career began in the Reserves Officer Training Corps. After she gained her pilot’s license, she began flying F-16s. One of only a few female instructor pilots, she made significant impacts in the areas of training. Her duties as an air advisor helping to rebuild and revitalize the Iraqi Air Force from 2006 through 2009 showed her outstanding leadership capabilities.

In a new partnership, NAA will award the Stinson Trophies at the International Women in Aviation Annual Conference’s Pioneer Hall of Fame Banquet to be held at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida, on Saturday, February 27th.

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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