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

JONI E. KELSEY SELECTED AS RECIPIENT OF 2015 STINSON TROPHY

Washington, DC, January 14, 2016 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is proud to announce that Joni E. Kelsey, Aircraft Electrician, United States Air Force, has been named the recipient of the 2015 Katherine and Marjorie Stinson Trophy.

The Stinson Trophy was created in 1997 by 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 trophy recognizes a living person for "...an outstanding and enduring contribution to the role of women in the field of aviation, aeronautics, space, or related sciences."

Kelsey is being recognized for "...dedicating 40 years as an aircraft maintainer and electrician and blazing a path for women in the Air Force through her commitment to training and mentoring female airmen."

Since the beginning of her career in 1976, Kelsey has been a pioneer for women in aviation. She was the first woman in her squadron to be cross trained as an aircraft mechanic and distinguished herself by earning 13 accolades for her outstanding work. Kelsey is also one of the first women to reach a F-16 fighter gravitational pull record as well as a record for most hours flown in an F-16 for a maintenance woman.

After retiring from active duty in 1996, Kelsey was assigned to the 97th Air Mobility Wing Maintenance Directorate Avionics Backshop at Altus AFB in Oklahoma as an aircraft electrician, a position that she continues to hold today. At Altus she was a founding member of the Altus Team Excellence in Aircraft Maintenance, and authored a technical order improvement to recharge nickel cadmium aircraft batteries, saving taxpayers \$1.3 million annually. In addition, she was selected as the first woman and first aircraft electrician asked to serve as the C-17 flying

crew chief supporting airlift missions throughout the world, and she has amassed 15 performance awards, 4 notable achievement awards, and 33 time-off awards for superior performance and education of other technicians in her discipline.

Finally, Kelsey has mentored dozens of women in all facets of aircraft maintenance, instilling core values that would carry throughout their careers. Kelsey's recent selection as trainer for young apprentice from Altus' famed "Grow Your Own Maintainer" program further solidifies her status as the best choice to impart experience and expertise on the next generations of mechanics.

Members of the Selection Committee were Karen Gebhart, Vice President Business Development, Helicopter Association International, and member of the NAA Board of Directors; Laurie Sussman, Government Relations Manager, Rockwell Collins, and member of the NAA Board of Directors; and Jonathan Gaffney, President & CEO, NAA.

The Stinson Trophy will be presented at NAA's Spring Awards dinner on March 8th in Arlington, Virginia. 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 world and national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit www.naa.aero.

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