

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Aviation Business Association Hosts 8th Annual Holiday Charity Drive to Support Veterans in Rural Colorado Communities

Denver, CO – December 4, 2018 – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is proud to announce the 8th Annual Holiday Charity Drive & VFW Airlift to benefit the Colorado Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The project is a collaborative effort between CABA, the VFW, the flying teams of the Metropolitan State University of Denver and additional volunteer pilots, and results in the distribution of thousands of pounds of food and toys to hundreds of military veterans and their families in rural communities around the state.

Monetary donations collected from aviation businesses and VFW posts around the state are used to purchase non-perishable food and toys, and several King Soopers and Costco stores also contribute funds as well as a large amount of canned and dry foods. The collection effort culminates at CABA's Holiday Party on Thursday, December 6, at the Downtown Aquarium in Denver, where guests also bring food and toy donations for the airlift. Members of the Colorado aviation community and the public are invited to attend the party, and those interested can RSVP at www.mycaba.org.

The food and toys will be delivered on Friday, December 7 to the staging and departure site for the airlift, Signature Flight Support at Centennial Airport in Englewood. The airlift operation will be conducted on Sunday, December 9, ensuring timely delivery of the food and toys for the holiday season. Nearly 30 pilots donating their time and aircraft expenses will fly the donated goods to 14 rural Colorado towns including Montrose/Delta on the western slope, Durango, Cortez, and Dove Creek in the southwestern area of the state, Alamosa, Pueblo, and Las Animas in southern Colorado, Burlington, Fort Morgan, and Greeley on the eastern plains, and Fort Collins, Longmont, and Erie. The flights will be met upon arrival by volunteer teams from the local VFW posts to unload the aircraft and distribute the food and toys to veterans and their families.

Members of the media are welcome and encouraged to attend both the food delivery as well as the airlift operation. Deliveries are scheduled for 9 a.m. on Friday, December 7, and airlift flights will begin departing at approximately 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 9. As mentioned above, both these events will take place at Signature Flight Support at Centennial Airport. This is the fourth consecutive year Signature has supported the airlift by generously providing the use of its hangar and ramp areas. The address of the hangar, located on the south side of Centennial Airport, is 8123 South InterPort Blvd., Englewood, CO 80112.

Airlift pilots, MSU Denver flight team members, the VFW State Commander, Signature Flight Support general manager, and CABA board members will be available for interviews and photos.

Media personnel planning to attend and cover either of these events should give advance notice so arrangements for gaining access to the secure hangar and ramp areas can be made. To do so, please contact either CABA Chairwoman Kandi Spangler at 312.246.2508 | kandi.spangler@jetaviva.com, or Airlift Director Mike Straka at 303.881.3315 | mstraka@mycaba.org.

About the CABA Charity Drive and VFW Airlift: Beginning in 2011 and every holiday season since then, CABA has partnered with the Flying Teams of MSU Denver and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to collect and distribute non-perishable foods and toys to veterans and their families across Colorado. The project has so far delivered a total of over 30,000 pounds of food and toys to more than 3,000 Colorado veterans and their families.

About the Colorado Aviation Business Association:

The mission of the Colorado Aviation Business Association is to promote the value of business and general aviation across the State of Colorado. Founded in 1994, the Colorado Aviation Business Association comprises more than 300 businesses and individual members who live and work within the State of Colorado. CABA acts to collectively address and respond to issues impacting Colorado Airports including safety and operational efficiency; to educate the general public about all aviation activities in the state; to preserve the state's airport related businesses as valuable economic assets to the community at large; and to provide for the training of future aviation professionals through the CABA Foundation's scholarship fund. CABA is a 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation, and the CABA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. For more information, visit www.mycaba.org

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Some of the aircraft on the ramp at Signature Flight Support prior to flying in the 2017 CABA-VFW
Holiday Airlift.
(Photo by Ryan Johanns)