

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Aviation Business Association Hosts 7th Annual Holiday Charity Drive to Support Veterans in Rural Colorado Communities

Denver, CO – November 30, 2017 – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is proud to announce the 7th Annual Holiday Charity Drive & VFW Airlift to benefit the Colorado Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The project, a collaborative effort between CABA, the VFW, and the Precision Flight Team of the Metropolitan State University of Denver, 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.

Collection of non-perishable food and toys began in October with the placement of donation bins in numerous VFW Posts along the Front Range and Western Slope. In addition, several King Soopers stores have contributed nearly 400 cases of canned and dry foods. The donation drive culminates at CABA's Holiday Party on Thursday, December 7, at the Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver, where guests are asked to bring donations of food or toys for the airlift. Members of the Colorado aviation community and the public are invited to attend, and those interested can RSVP at www.mycaba.org.

All donated goods will be delivered on Friday, December 8, to Signature Flight Support, the staging and departure site for the airlift located at Centennial Airport in Englewood. The airlift will be conducted on Sunday, December 10, ensuring timely delivery of needed food and toys for the holiday season. More than 20 pilots will donate their time and expenses to fly the donated goods to 9 rural Colorado towns. Volunteer pilots include the MSU Denver Precision Flight Team and numerous private pilots who will fly the food and toys to Montrose/Delta on the western slope, Durango and Cortez in the southwest, Alamosa, Pueblo, and Las Animas in southern Colorado, and Burlington, Fort Morgan, and Greeley on the eastern plains. Upon arrival, flights will be greeted by teams from local VFW posts, who help unload the aircraft and distribute the donated goods to veterans and their families for the holiday season.

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 December 8, and airlift flights will begin departing at approximately 10 a.m. on December 10. Mentioned above, both events will take place at Signature Flight Support at Centennial Airport. The address of the hangar is 8123 S. InterPort Blvd., Englewood, CO 80112.

Flight team members, private pilots, the VFW State Commander, Signature Flight Support general manager, and CABA board members will be available for interviews and photos. As an additional point of interest, CABA chairwoman Kandi Spangler will herself be flying in the airlift this year.

Media personnel planning to attend and cover either of these events, should notify us in advance so that proper arrangements can be made to provide you access to the secure hangar and ramp areas. Contact either Kandi Spangler at 312.246.2508 or kandi.spangler@jetaviva.com, or Mike Straka at 303.881.3315 or mstraka@mycaba.org.

About the CABA Charity Drive and VFW Airlift: Every holiday season beginning in 2011, CABA has partnered with the Precision Flight Team 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 2,000 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 consists of over 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 effectiveness; 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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Metropolitan State University of Denver's Precision Flight Team on the ramp at Signature Flight Support prior to the 2015 CABA-VFW Holiday Airlift. (Photo by Mike Straka)