

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Colorado Aviation Business Association Announces Record Year Collecting Food & Toy Donations Benefiting Colorado Veterans; Pays Tribute to Retiring Jeppesen CEO, Mark Van Tine**

**Denver, CO – December 12, 2016** – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) announces record-breaking donations resulting from their 6<sup>th</sup> annual food and toy drive event featuring keynote speaker and event honoree, Mark Van Tine.

Since 2011, CABA has partnered with the Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to collect and distribute non-perishable food and toys to veterans and their families across Colorado. The project has delivered more than 23,000 pounds of food and toys to Colorado veterans over the past five years. This year, CABA collected a record-breaking 10,000 pounds of goods which were delivered throughout Colorado on December 11, 2016 using aircraft donated for the annual operation. As in years past, CABA and the Colorado VFW worked together to collect and transport donations to Centennial Airport, where they were loaded onto several aircraft destined for Burlington, Las Animas, Pueblo, Alamosa, and Montrose. Aircraft were then met at the destination airports by teams of VFW personnel who distributed the goods directly to families in need.

CABA credits the program's success to their members and partners for making the VFW Drive and Airlift possible. The Precision Flight Team of Metropolitan State University of Denver along with several other business and private aircraft, including a Pilatus PC-12 donated by AeroColorado, flew the donated goods on Sunday departing out of Signature Flight Support at Centennial Airport.

Previously on Thursday, December 8, 2016, CABA hosted its annual holiday party, which serves as the organization's primary fundraiser for the VFW Drive and Airlift. As part of the event, CABA,

along with several esteemed aviation professionals, paid tribute to long-time executive, Mark Van Tine, who recently retired as Chief Executive Officer of Colorado-based Jeppesen.

CABA presented a plaque to Mr. Van Tine, along with a Proclamation issued by the Office of Governor, John Hickenlooper. Oral tributes were delivered by Greg Anderson, President and CEO of the Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum; Charlie Johnson, former CEO of Cessna Aircraft and president of Aero Electric Aircraft Corporation; Greg Feith, former investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board and an aviation safety consultant; David Ulane, Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics; Robert Olislagers, Executive Director of Centennial Airport in Englewood; and Dr. Jeff Forrest, Chair of the Aviation & Aerospace Science Department at Metropolitan State University of Denver. The honors took place following Mr. Van Tine's keynote address at CABA's event held at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver.

***Note to Editors:***

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. FMI visit: [www.mycaba.org](http://www.mycaba.org).

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