

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wings Over Houston Airshow Returns with Salute to First Responders and Veterans
Returning and all-new event features will honor first responders, support veteran-owned
businesses and allow patrons to give back to their community

HOUSTON – The Wings Over Houston Airshow (WOHA), one of Houston's largest annual events, will return to Ellington Airport October 14-15 to benefit thousands of military veterans and honor first responders throughout the city. The volunteer-led event will feature the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit, presented by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, the Houston Veteran Business Marketplace, hosted by the Houston Regional Veterans Chamber of Commerce, supporting local veteran entrepreneurs, and a partnership with Union Pacific Railroad's UPVETS (UPVETS) to host a toy drive for underserved children.

"Beyond showcasing the thrills of aviation, our airshow serves a greater purpose," said Bill Roach, Executive Director of WOHA. "It provides the Houston region with a platform to give back to our own community and an opportunity to honor and support our brave first responders and military personnel, who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety."

For the first time, the exclusive 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit will join WOHA. The one-of-a-kind exhibit hosted by New York City Fire Department (FDNY) retirees honors the heroic first responders who selflessly sacrificed their lives on September 11, 2001. Special tours will be provided for the firefighters of League City.

"We are proud to be able to offer Ellington's local firefighters the opportunity to pay tribute to those we lost on 9/11," said Frank Siller, Chairman and CEO of Tunnel to Towers Foundation. "Bringing this unique experience to the Houston airshow as a tribute to the undefeated courage of our first responders and their enduring strength is an honor."

Also joining WOHA for the first time is <u>Union Pacific Railroad's UPVETS</u>, a veteran-focused employee resource group, that will collect toys at the event gates for the <u>Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program</u>. Since 2019, UPVETS volunteers have delivered 60,000 toys to 15,000 children in need. This year, they hope to raise over \$100,000 and receive 50,000 toys.

In addition, the Houston Veteran Business Marketplace will be returning to Ellington Airport for this year's event. This collaborative initiative hosted by the Houston Regional Veterans Chamber of Commerce and Wings Over Houston provides a dedicated space at the event for local veteran-owned small businesses to showcase their products and services to attendees.

To learn more about ticket options, display aircraft, additional event attractions/performers, travel accommodations, sponsorship, or volunteer opportunities with the airshow, visit www.wingsoverhouston.com.

## **About CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow**

The <u>CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow</u> is an IRC 501(c)(3) community event presented by the volunteer efforts of the Houston Wing, Gulf Coast Wing, and Tora! Tora! Tora! of

the Commemorative Air Force, with support from the Lone Star Flight Museum, Collings Foundation-Houston based at Ellington Airport, and the Vietnam War Flight Museum. One of the top air shows in the United States, this premier Houston event is dedicated to showcasing vintage World War II aircraft, along with the thrills of modern aviation, and has supported a variety of local and national charities during its 39-year history.

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**MEDIA CONTACT** 

McKenna Parr & Chris Bowker Griffin Communications Group wingsmedia@griffincg.com