

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wings Over Houston Airshow Soars Through the Solar Eclipse

United States Air Force Thunderbirds returned to awe-inspired crowds at Ellington Airport

HOUSTON – The <u>Wings Over Houston Airshow</u>, headlined by the <u>U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds</u>, attracted more than 90,000 visitors to Ellington Airport October 14-15. The airshow, which is organized by America's <u>Commemorative Air Force</u>, featured a variety of performers, static aircraft and other visitor attractions. On Saturday, more than 50,000 airshow guests observed an annular solar eclipse together amid thrilling air performances.

"The massive success of this year's airshow was due to the efforts and dedication of thousands of volunteers," said Bill Roach, Executive Director of Wings Over Houston. "We're always humbled by the opportunity to share our passion for aviation as we work together to inspire the community through one of the largest annual airshows in the United States."

In addition to the demonstrations by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, this year's event also included performances by the <u>United States Air Force (USAF) F-35 Demo Team, Smoke &</u> <u>Thunder Jet Car, Mike "Spanky" Gallaway, RE/MAX Skydive Team</u>, Houston's <u>U.S. Coast</u> <u>Guard Air Station, US Air Force Heritage Flight-P51 and F-35</u>, <u>TORA! TORA! TORA!</u>, John and Shane McGillis and more.

This year, Wings Over Houston also awarded \$22,000 in scholarships to eight Texas high school and college students as part of the show's commitment to cultivating the next generation of aviation pioneers. Over the last nine years, WOHA has granted more than \$225,000 to aspiring aviators.

Other crowd-favorite attractions from this year's event included the opportunity to meet decorated veterans, pilots, and living legends of aerospace who helped America reach the Moon at the Legends & Heroes Autograph Tent, the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit presented by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, the opportunity to donate toys for children through Union Pacific Railroad's UPVETS collection for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program, and the Houston Veteran Business Marketplace, hosted by the Houston Regional Veterans Chamber of Commerce.

The Wings Over Houston airshow will again return to Ellington Airport in fall 2024 with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

## 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