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Media Advisory

Vertical Flight Society Hosts Helicopter History Event, May 13 ***Philadelphia Region Boasts Leading Rotorcraft Companies and 90+ Years of History***

WHAT: The non-profit Vertical Flight Society is hosting a special event on Monday evening, May 13, entitled, “Memoirs of our Pioneers: A Celebration of Their Life and Times.” The evening begins at 6:30 pm with a facilitated panel discussion featuring immediate family and friends of the original helicopter industry pioneers, followed by a reception at 7:45 pm with a representative of Governor Tom Wolf’s office.

WHO: The panel session features five venerable speakers who represent the founders of the helicopter industry in the 1930s and 1940s. The reception will feature Mr. Neil Weaver, Executive Deputy Secretary at the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This event is generously sponsored by Piasecki Aircraft Corp. and the Pitcairn Family Foundation. See www.vtol.org/historic-evening.

WHEN: Monday, May 13, 2019 | 6:30-9:00 PM — Registration begins at 6:00 PM

WHERE: Franklin Institute, 222 N 20th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103

WHY: VFS holds the largest and longest-running annual vertical flight technical conference in the world and this year celebrates its Diamond Jubilee at the 75th Annual Forum & Technology Display, May 13-16, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia: www.vtol.org/forum. VFS was founded as the American Helicopter Society in 1943 by the visionaries of the early helicopter industry and held its First Annual Forum in Philadelphia in 1945. The Delaware Valley is known as “The Cradle of Rotary-Wing Aviation in the US” — see www.vtol.org/philly-history

The Philadelphia region is well known for its aerospace manufacturing and is home to the production of Boeing’s V-22 Osprey and CH-47 Chinook in Ridley Township, and AgustaWestland Philadelphia Company’s AW119 and AW139 helicopters at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport; Lockheed Martin’s Sikorsky plant in Coatesville maintains and completes its S-76 and S-92 helicopters. These three manufacturers alone account for \$1.5B in supplier purchases in Pennsylvania and 8,800 employees with total salaries of more than \$13B. Other key industry manufacturers nearby include Piasecki Aircraft Corp. in Essington and Eaton Aerospace in Glenolden.

HOW: The event is sold out for non-media. Media who wish to attend must pre-register via email prior to Monday, May 13, 2019 at 12:00 noon. The event is free (without drinks) to certified members of the press who plan to report on the event. To register, please send media credentials to the contact listed above with the subject line: “Media for Historic Evening.” Note: video recording must be approved in advance by the venue.

The Vertical Flight Society

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