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Angel Flight West Announces 2020 Endeavor Awards Honorees

Angel Flight West is pleased to announce the awardees who will be honored at this year’s Endeavor Awards ceremony in recognition of their contributions to aviation and health care.

In previous years, the Endeavor Awards has gone to specific individuals that exemplify a commitment to charitable aviation. This year, The Endeavor Award will celebrate each and every volunteer pilot in the country who has flown a charitable flight, with Angel Flight West's founding members (Gary Davis, Keith Kretschmer, Alan Lund, John L. Plueger, Dennis Torres, Averi Torres, Brian Weiss, and Bill Worden) accepting the award.

The accompanying grant will be awarded to Air Care Alliance (ACA) to support their work in pilot outreach and national safety measures. ACA is a nonprofit public service organization supporting the work of volunteer-based charitable organizations whose members fly to help others. More than 50 volunteer pilot organizations are flying donated flights in the air every day across the U.S., amounting to more than 10,000 flights each year. Individual pilots donate their own time, aircraft and fuel to provide health and compassion in service to the community.

In addition, Inspiration Awards will be presented to Seymour "Si" Robin, Captain Tammie Jo Shults, and Johnese Spisso.

An inventor who holds 80 patents for aircraft antenna-related products, Si Robin has been a major influence in advancing aerospace technology. He is CEO and executive vice president of Sensor Systems, Inc., which offers more than 250 products and manufactures over 1,100 antennas per day.

Tammie Jo Shults was the first female F/A-18 Hornet pilot in the US Navy and later became a pilot for Southwest Airlines. As detailed in her captivating novel, Nerves of Steel, she received wide acclaim in 2018 when she successfully landed a Boeing 737 after an engine exploded at high altitude, saving the lives of 148 passengers and crew.

Johnese Spisso is President of UCLA Health, CEO of UCLA Hospital System, and

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Associate Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences. She is a nationally recognized academic healthcare leader with more than 30 years of experience and oversees all operations of UCLA’s hospitals and clinics as well as the health system's regional outreach strategy.

Event sponsors include Alaska Airlines, Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA), The Boeing Company, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Cirrus Aircraft, Charlie and Lynne Precourt, Citation Jet Pilots Association, Desert Jet, Flying Lady Winery, Jason and Lily Talley, Leslie and Robert Zemeckis, Marks Family Foundation, Matt Brown, Mark and Mari Donnelly, McDermott + Bull, National Business Aviation Association (NBAA,) Pegasus Elite Aviation, Steve and Margie Danz, Rich Conti, Textron Aviation, Windermere Real Estate, and The Wolper Organization.

The Endeavor Awards are produced and presented by Angel Flight West, a charitable aviation organization that serves the 12 Western states with more than 5,000 flights annually.

The 2020 Endeavor Awards will take place on May 8th in the Samuel Oschin Space Shuttle Endeavour Pavilion of the California Science Center in Los Angeles, following a cocktail reception in the Rose Garden at Exposition Park. The evening will include silent and live auctions, and a paddle raise that will benefit Angel Flight West's Passenger Assistance Fund, used to purchase airline tickets for patients when weather or other circumstances keep volunteer pilots grounded.

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