



THE WINGS CLUB

CONTACT:

Marie Rosa/Candice Kimmel
Adams Unlimited
212-956-5900
Marie@adams-pr.com

For Immediate Release

**THE WINGS CLUB TO PRESENT FOURTH ANNUAL OUTSTANDING AVIATOR
AWARD TO PATTY WAGSTAFF**

New York, NY – (February 27, 2013) – The Wings Club, recognized as the most premier aviation club in the world, will honor **Patty Wagstaff**, Champion Aerobatic Pilot with the fourth annual Outstanding Aviator Award.

The Outstanding Aviator Award was created by the Wings Club in partnership with IAWA (the International Aviation Women’s Association). The mission of the award is to recognize airmen and airwomen whose actions have made major contributions to aviation and/or security and serve as leadership role models.

The presentation of this year’s Award will take place at The Wings Club’s Annual Meeting, to be held on the evening of Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at The Yale Club in New York City. Ken Gazzola, past President and Chairman of the Historical and Education Committee, and IAWA board members will present the award to Patty, who will be in attendance.

Patty’s many accomplishments broke barriers and opened doors for other women to follow. Despite other women pilots deeming it impossible, in 1991 she became the first woman ever to win the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships and she would go on to win the Nationals three times, for three consecutive years. In addition to these U.S. Championships, Patty has six times earned a position on the U.S. Aerobatic Team at the World Aerobatic Championships, and six times won the Betty Skelton “First Lady of Aerobatics” Award. Her recognition was cemented in 1994 when her airplane, the Goodrich Extra 260, was placed on display at the National Air and Space Museum near Amelia Earhart’s Lockheed Vega. In 2002, she was a Presidential appointee to the Centennial of Flight Commission’s Federal Advisory Board. In 2005, Patty received the National Aeronautic Association (NAA)/99’S Katherine Wright Award; and has also received the Air Show Industry’s most prestigious award, the “Sword of Excellence,” and the “Bill Barber Award for Showmanship.” Patty volunteers with the Kenya Wildlife Service, giving recurrent

and aerobatic training to law enforcement officers patrolling for poachers of elephant tusks and rhinoceros horns. Recently she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Air Force Association and was inducted into the Experimental Aircraft Association/International Aerobatic Club (EAA/IAC) Hall of Fame.

The Wings Club, founded in 1942, is the premiere aviation club in the world. Dedicated to preserve the history and traditions of aviation, the Club provides a forum for discussion and debate on aeronautical and aviation issues. The Wings Club serves over 1,300 members including industry leaders, pilots, professionals in related service organizations and students of aviation.

Recognizing significant achievements that contribute to the advancement of aeronautical and aviation matters, The Wings Club recognizes and honors people throughout the year with the Distinguished Achievement Award, Distinguished Scholar Awards and the Outstanding Aviator Award. The Club also hosts Aviation Leader Series Luncheons that feature keynote speeches by industry leaders.

Founded in 1988, the International Aviation Womens Association (IAWA) brings together women of achievement in the aviation industry and promotes their advancement internationally through the establishment of a worldwide network of aviation professional contacts. IAWA is an international organization for women who hold senior positions in the aviation and aerospace industry including airline, airport, finance, insurance, law, manufacturing, operations, suppliers and government.

Previous recipients of this award were the Tuskegee Airmen, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) and the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. If you are interested in attending this year's presentation of the fourth annual Outstanding Aviator Award to Patty Wagstaff and would also like to attend the Annual Meeting, please RSVP to Lea MacDougall at (212) 867-1770 or email wingsclub@aol.com. For more information on the The Wings Club visit <http://www.wingsclub.org>.

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