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Troy Bradley and Leonid Tiukhtyaev of the Two Eagles Balloon Flight to Receive the 2015 Harmon Trophy

Washington, DC, August 13, 2015 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is proud to announce that Troy Bradley and Leonid Tiukhtyaev of the Two Eagles Balloon Flight, have been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Harmon Trophy. The trophy was established in 1926 by Colonel Clifford B. Harmon and is to be awarded annually for “... the most outstanding international achievement in the art and/or science of aeronautics (ballooning)...”

Bradley and Tiukhtyaev are being recognized for “... the World Record distance and duration flight of the Two Eagles gas balloon across the Pacific Ocean from Saga, Japan to Baja California, Mexico.”

On the morning of January 24, 2015, the Two Eagles gas balloon lifted off from Saga, Japan and flew for 160 hours, covering more than 10,700 km (6,600 statute miles), landing just off the coast of Baja California, Mexico on the morning of January 31, 2015.

These achievements have been certified as U.S. National Records by the NAA and as World Records by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. The Two Eagles surpassed the previous duration record of 137 hours set by the Double Eagle II flight in 1978 and the distance record of 5,200 miles set by the Double Eagle V in 1981.

During the weeklong flight, Bradley and Tiukhtyaev were constantly challenged to demonstrate their skill in the art of flying this large, traditional gas balloon. While there was advanced technology on board for navigation and communication, the balloon itself was a simple system. The flight profile required constant work and vigilance in flight as they maneuvered the balloon for the optimal performance of distance and duration that could possibly be achieved.

The Two Eagles Balloon Flight's extensive media coverage and unique, real time tracking capabilities available through social media platforms allowed people around the world to share take part in the record breaking journey. The flight has also been used in many phases of education to inform and excite students about the science and art of gas ballooning.

In addition to Jonathan Gaffney, President and CEO of NAA, members of the Harmon Trophy Selection Committee were Dr. John Langford, member of the NAA Board of Directors and Chairman and CEO of Aurora Flight Sciences, and Sam Parks, President of the Balloon Federation of America.

The Harmon Trophy will be presented at the NAA Fall Awards Ceremony on December 3, 2015 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. For more information or to view a complete list of previous recipients, please visit www.naa.aero.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of some of the most important aviation awards in the world, and certifies all world and national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit www.naa.aero.

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