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**FLIGHT TEST MUSEUM
FOUNDATION (FTMF)**

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EDWARDS, AFB, PALMDALE, CA, Oct. 25, 2022 – The Flight Test Museum Foundation (FTMF), a nonprofit building the only museum in the world dedicated to test pilots and experimental air- and spacecraft, invites the public to its annual "Gathering of Eagles" fundraiser recognizing exemplary aviators, including two NASA astronauts.

On Saturday, November 12, the Flight Test Museum Foundation (FTMF) will host its annual Gala, “**The Gathering of Eagles**”, celebrating 75th Years of Breaking the Barriers over the Antelope Valley and marking its own 40th year of sharing the amazing story of America’s heart of flight test and aerospace research at Mojave Air and Space Port, Edwards AFB, NASA Armstrong Research Center, and Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, and current aerospace industries including SpaceX, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic.

Eugene "Rod" Roddenberry, CEO of Roddenberry Enterprises, and executive producer of the groundbreaking *Star Trek* franchise, will serve as the event's honorary chairman and participate in a fireside chat with **Bill "Evil" Gray**, chief test pilot at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

The Foundation's Eagle Award recognizes significant achievement in flight test and will be presented to the following individuals who will be in attendance and part of the panel discussion:

- **Fred W. Haise, Jr.** – Marine Pilot, Air Force Test Pilot, NASA astronaut, Apollo 13; Commander, Space Shuttle Enterprise, Northrop Grumman VP Space Programs, President.
- **Pamela A. Melroy** – Air Force Test pilot; NASA astronaut, Pilot Space Shuttles Discovery & Atlantis; Commander, Discovery; NASA Deputy Administrator.
- **Todd "Leif" Ericson** – Air Force and Virgin Galactic Test Pilot; SpaceX/Polaris Dawn Mission Director, Denmark Director of Business Development.

The panel discussion will answer the questions of how we got to where we are today in aerospace development, where we are going, and how we will get there panelists include the newly inducted Eagles listed plus: **Donald L. Mallick**, Navy pilot, NASA Dryden (now Armstrong) Research Pilot, Deputy Chief Director NASA; **Kelly Latimer**, Air Force and Boeing Test Pilot, NASA Research Pilot; Virgin Galactic Test Pilot and Director of Flight Test; **Jared "Rook" Isaacman**, CEO, Draken International and Shift4, and SpaceX/Polaris Dawn Commander, Commercial Astronaut; and **Wesley R. Persall**, Air Force, Scaled Composites, The Spaceship Company Flight Test; Blue Origin Principal Test Engineer.

The event and silent auction of rare memorabilia will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Antelope Valley Fair and Event Center, H.W. Hunter Pavilion in Lancaster, CA, the event doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase [here](#). All proceeds will support **Phase Two** construction of the museum. Along with tributes to trailblazers, such as Chuck Yeager, who broke the sound barrier 75 years ago in the Bell X-1, 35 notable air- and spacecraft, including the Lockheed A-12 "Oxcart" and the last remaining NASA Lunar Landing Research Vehicle, will be exhibited at the museum.

"Our national mission is to honor technological advances made by test pilots, preserve rare aircraft and spacecraft developed in the Aerospace Valley, and inspire the next generation through the future museum's STEM education programs," said Art Thompson, chairman of the Foundation's board of directors. More info: <https://FlightTestMuseum.org/Gathering-of-Eagles/>

For more information about the Flight Test Museum Foundation, please visit www.FlightTestMuseum.org or contact Lisa Brown directly at: Lbrown@FlightTestMuseum.org or call 323.630.4789.

FTMF IS NOW OFFERING THE MEDIA AN “ALL ACCESS” INVITATION TO CHECK OUT THE TOP MILITARY AIRCRAFT UP CLOSE AND INTERVIEW THE TEST PILOTS THAT FLY THEM. THIS VIP ACCESS WILL BE GRANTED ON A LIMITED “FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE” BASIS!

Important Updates and Upcoming Events:

FTMF is excited to announce that Phase Two has begun and construction of the steel frame is beginning on the Flight Test Museum site! The new museum has just received 346,920 pounds of steel for the construction of the new airplane hangar and exhibition hall. The main goal is to protect and preserve these historical and extremely rare aircraft inside the new structure and away from the damaging outside elements. The hall will house one of the most unique collections of research aircraft in the world and provide a place for the world to see it. (Photos included below on second page of release.)

Our mission is to preserve, display, and educate **the public** about the more than 75 years of flight tests, aerospace and technological developments in the Aerospace Valley. Our Educational Programs provide online and in person activities, lessons, and classes on the principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in flight test and aerospace research to expand knowledge, inspire, and motivate future generations using examples of the advancements in aerospace in our collection.

Innovation and exploration are alive and well in the Aerospace Valley. In the past, the pilots and engineers broke the shackles of traditional thinking that held them back from chasing their wild ambition to fly faster, longer, and further than anyone ever had. Today, Blue Origin rocket testing is conducted, the Space Force is testing systems, and NASA is developing a commercial supersonic aircraft with the Skunkworks. History is being made every day in the Aerospace Valley, and the museum is the place for the world to learn about it.

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Supporting Photos: Phase Two - 360,000 lbs. of Steel Delivered for the new FTMF museum



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