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For Immediate Release:

**Thunder in the Valley Air Show Announces Disbursement of Proceeds
Record attendance key factor for increase in youth organizations receiving donations**

Columbus, Ga., June 10, 2009 – The 2009 Thunder in the Valley Air Show held this past March was the best in 12 years according to air show organizers. Co-chair, Tom Bryan says, “more than 30,000 spectators attended the show; up 30% from 2008.” He adds, “It was the largest attendance in the history of the air show. We praise ourselves in presenting a quality event each year, and we would like to thank all who attended.”

The air show’s record attendance made it possible for The Thunder in the Valley Air Show to add more donations than in years past. The Thunder in the Valley Air Show serves as a fund-raising opportunity for youth groups through the operation of air show concessions. Over \$100,000, 50% increase from 2008, was donated to youth organizations and charities, and in ticket distribution for the under privileged and Ft. Benning trainees.

Organizations that received proceeds include: Chattahoochee Council Boy Scouts of America, Columbus Community Foundation, Our House, Girls, Inc., Columbus Literacy Alliance, Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Home, Children’s Miracle Network, Ronald McDonald House, Russell County Child Advocacy, Phenix-Russell Youth Center, Wounded Warriors, Big Brother–Big Sisters, Columbus High School – Boys Soccer Program, Aviation Explorer Post, Columbus Jaycees, Columbus State University ROTC Program, Calvary Christian School – Senior Class, Columbus Police Department Explorer Post, Central High School ROTC Program, Civil Air Patrol, Randolph-Clay High School ROTC Program and Fort Benning Infantry Training Brigade.

ICAS, the International Council of Air Shows, says that the trend for air shows across the country is higher attendance even though the economy is down.

"Families are cutting costs, but they're still looking for quality entertainment," said John Cudahy, president of the International Council of Air Shows. "That's why air show attendance spikes in a bad economy. Ticket prices are low, but the entertainment value is high." Cudahy reported a 12 to 15 percent increase in air show attendance during 2008, which followed patterns witnessed during 1980-1982 and 1990-1991 recessions.

The Thunder in the Valley Air Show ticket price is among the lowest for a non-military event within the air show industry. A regular advance ticket price is \$8, and day of show is \$10. (Industry averages are \$12 in advance and \$14 day of show.) The next Thunder in the Valley Air Show will be March 20 - 21, 2010, and ticket prices will remain the same.

About The Thunder in Valley Air Show:

The Thunder in the Valley Air Show began 12 years ago as a local fly in for aviation enthusiast and has grown to become one of the largest outdoor family events in the Chattahoochee Valley area. The air show brings in top performers from across the United States. National attention has been given to the Thunder in the Valley Air Show by the International Council of Air Shows for excellence in marketing. For more information, visit www.thunderinthevalleyairshow.com.

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