

For Immediate Release

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Texans for General Aviation

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Just a week after State Representative John Kuempel (R-Seguin) chaired the first meeting of the Texas General Aviation Caucus at the State Capitol, “A Celebration of General Aviation” took place at the Austin Executive Airport this past Wednesday. The event featured numerous general aviation aircraft that Texas – based companies utilize as tools to assure their success locally and internationally.

These Texas based companies had an opportunity to exhibit their business aircraft, ranging in size from a single engine piston aircraft used by Sisk Rifles to a business jet utilized by Valero Energy. The reception clearly brought the message of the value of business aviation to the attendees including elected officials and their staff, local business and opinion leaders. “These aircraft are used statewide and nationally to conduct business in places that have limited, or no, airline access,” Charlie Sisk, owner and president of Sisk Rifles said. Sisk operates a 1956 Cessna 182 to personally deliver custom made rifles to his customers across the country, a competitive service that only with his aircraft can make possible.

John White, VP of Aviation at Valero Energy and president of Texans for General Aviation, showed elected officials and staff representatives the business jet that Valero utilizes nationally and internationally to conduct business, “This is a great opportunity to show local officials and guests the importance of general aviation and how it helps companies do business.” Bob McCreery, owner and operator of McCreery Aviation out of McAllen, Texas, brought a medium business aircraft, a Cessna twin engine airplane to the event and showcased the versatility of the usefulness of the aircraft.

Andy Perry, Director of Aviation for Austin Executive Airport, gave the attendees a tour of the fixed base facilities commonly found at general aviation airports. Of the 380 or so airports in Texas, only 26 are utilized by commercial airlines. “General Aviation aircraft and airports bring needed services to communities across the state. We needed

firefighters throughout all of Texas during fires in the past couple of years – and several of those fires were put out with the help of general aviation aircraft. Folks all across the country need medical services like LifeFlight, Angel Flight, and crop dusters that continually play a vital role in our agricultural system,” stated Shelly deZevallos with West Houston Airport, “Think about it, that anniversary present you forgot to get but ordered yesterday was delivered to you on a general aviation airplane. We use general aviation aircraft in numerous ways, but not everyone is aware of all those rolls, and that’s the message we are trying to get out.”

Texans for General Aviation is a statewide non-profit organization formed for the purposes of promoting and protecting General Aviation at the state and local level and encouraging careers in General Aviation to students throughout the state. Membership consists of Texas business men and women who are pilots, non pilots, government officials, aviation attorneys, university board members, educators, airport managers, fixed base owners and other Texas executives.

More information about Texans for General Aviation is available by contacting info@texansforgeneralaviation.org.