



International Council of Air Shows Foundation

Media Release

For Immediate Release

ICAS Foundation Selects 2006 Hall of Fame Inductees *Hall of Fame Honors Significant Contributions to the Air Show Industry*

The International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) Foundation has honored four past and current air show performers by inducting them into the ICAS Foundation Air Show Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was created in 1995 to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the air show industry.

Inductees for 2006 are Paul Mantz, Marion Cole, Eddie Green and Patty Wagstaff.

“The selection panel always has a very tough job,” said Hall of Fame chairman Tom Trinkwalder. “There are so many great men and women who have helped shape the future of air shows. It’s an honor to recognize their achievements in this way.”

Paul Mantz – Paul was known for his work in air shows, movies and air racing in a career that spanned five decades, from the 1920s to the 1960s. He served as a technical advisor to Amelia Earhart, was commander of the first motion picture unit in World War II, operated an air charter business and was a flight instructor. He is the only person to win the Bendix Trophy three times. In addition, he placed in international aerobatic competition, received military honors, set inter-city speed records and was also inducted into the MotorSports Hall of Fame in 2002. He tragically lost his life while filming the movie “Flight of the Phoenix” in 1965.

Marion Cole – Marion’s career began in the 1940s and continued into the 21st century. He was an aerobatic instructor, air show performer, plus a national and world aerobatic competitor. He flew as part of the original Cole Brothers Air Shows after World War II, then established the Marion F. Cole Air Shows which operated off and on until the early 1990s. He is a founding member of the International Aerobatic Club, taught aerobatics at the basic and advanced levels, and tutored many young aerobatic pilots for the last 50 years. In addition he flew air shows throughout the continental United States from the late 1940s into the early 1990s. Though retired from the air show circuit he still counsels, tutors and announces for some young aerobatic hopefuls and still attends several air shows each year.

Eddie “The Grip” Green – Eddie is regarded as the most experienced air show stuntman of all time. Known as Eddie “The Grip,” he would open an air show by jumping in with both the American and Canadian flags, then perform a car-to-plane transfer followed by wingwalking with such notable pilots as Harold Krier, Bill Barber, Bob Barden and Jimmy Franklin, and wrap up a show by performing a ribbon pickup while suspended beneath an airplane on a rope ladder. He was a designer, an engineer, a builder and driver/owner of the world’s smallest aircraft carrier for landing a plane on a moving truck. His wingwalking career exceeds more than 1,000 trips

atop an airplane and Eddie has boarded an airplane from a speeding car via a rope ladder more times than any other human being.

Patty Wagstaff – Patty is known for flying one of the most thrilling, high-energy, low-level aerobatic routines in the world. Her breathtaking performances give spectators a front-row seat view of the precision and complexity of modern, unlimited hard-core aerobatics. A six-time recipient of the First Lady of Aerobatics Betty Skelton Award, she is a member of the National Aviation hall of Fame and was the recipient of the National Air and Space Museum’s Award for Current Achievement in 1994. She has received the Sword of Excellence award from the International Council of Air Shows and the Bill Barber Award for Showmanship and was recently award a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Air Force Association. Patty has trained with the Russian Aerobatic Team and has flown air shows and competitions in such exotic locations as South America, Europe, Mexico and Iceland. She continues to set the mark for professionalism in the air show industry and is one of the industry’s most revered entertainers.

A panel designated by the ICAS Foundation Board of Directors selected this year’s inductees. The induction ceremony will be held during the annual ICAS convention in December at the Rio All-Suites Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. More details about these outstanding pilots and performers is available on the ICAS Foundation Web Site at www.icasfoundation.org

The ICAS Foundation is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving the air show industry's valuable heritage through cataloging and storing of artifacts, articulating the value of air shows and demonstration flying to the public, helping families of those in the air show industry who have lost their lives, and supporting the pilots and performers of the future through scholarships. In addition to the Hall of Fame, the Foundation’s programs include several aviation scholarships which memorialize air show industry leaders and a Family Fund to assist families when tragedy strikes within the air show community.

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For more information on the ICAS Foundation: <http://www.icasfoundation.org>