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WOMEN IN AEROSPACE ANNOUNCES 2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS

August 4, 2008 – Washington, D.C. – Women in Aerospace (WIA) is proud to announce the winners of its **23rd Annual Women in Aerospace Awards**. WIA will honor eight outstanding women for their contributions to the advancement of women in the industry at a reception and dinner to be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The 2008 winners are:

Aerospace Awareness Award: *Lesley Garner*, Pre-College Office, NASA Kennedy Space Center, Fla., for excellence in building public awareness of aerospace programs over a public- and private-sector career in education activity, reaching thousands of students and educators through the innovative aerospace education programs she developed and managed.

Achievement Award: *Kristin Olson Swift*, Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Program Division Head and Chief Engineer, Headquarters, Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Md., for outstanding leadership in developing an innovative IT solution for critical aviation-related safety and airworthiness data, saving lives in the process.

Aerospace Educator Award: *Ronda Cole*, Director, Air Force Research Laboratory, La Luz Academy, Albuquerque, N.M., for providing aerospace education outreach to over 75,000 students, most of whom are female and minority, and for serving as a role model in her profession and in her community.

International Achievement Award: *Yolanda Jones King*, Branch Chief, Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland AFB, N.M., for distinctive accomplishments in international aerospace collaboration and in retaining all NATO responsibilities as the elected Chair of the NATO Sensors and Electronics Technology (SET) Panel overseeing 58 technical efforts across all NATO countries, and for serving as a role model for our younger citizens and reflecting great credit upon herself, her state and the international community.

Leadership Award (tie):

Marion Blakey, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aerospace Industries Association, Arlington, Va., for exemplary leadership and dedicated service to the aerospace profession and the nation, leading both the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, and serving in key roles at the departments of Commerce and Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the White House.

Shana Dale, Deputy Administrator, NASA, Washington, D.C., for a trailblazing career that includes serving as the first female Deputy Administrator of NASA in its 50-year history, and for being a mentor for women in NASA and across the aerospace industry.

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Lifetime Achievement Award: *Cheryl O' Leary*, Vice President and Palmdale Site General Manager, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Palmdale, Calif., for 43 years of exceptional leadership and achievement on the U-2 program, the F-117 program, and various classified programs critical to the nation's defense, paving the way for women to excel in the aerospace industry.

Outstanding Member Award: *Kate Kronmiller*, Vice President, Government Relations, United Space Alliance, Arlington, Va., for serving as a founding member of Women in Aerospace, and for her unwavering dedication to the growth and professionalism of the organization and its members.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in the awards dinner on October 14, 2008 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., should register as soon as possible at info@womeninaerospace.org or by calling 202-547-0229.

*Women in Aerospace (WIA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding women's opportunities for leadership and to increasing their visibility within the aerospace community. Any person who supports WIA's mission and goals is eligible for membership.
To learn more about WIA, visit:*

www.womeninaerospace.org

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