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## **TORA, TORA, TORA HONORED WITH LLOYD P. NOLEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN AVIATION AWARD**

**HOUSTON** (September 27, 2011) – Wings Over Houston Airshow is pleased to recognize Tora, Tora, Tora as the recipient of the 2011 Lloyd P. Nolen Lifetime Achievement in Aviation Award, which honors individuals, organizations, companies and corporations dedicated to the promotion or advancement of aviation. As one of the most dramatic and visual acts in the air show industry, Tora, Tora, Tora performs twelve to sixteen airshows a year in the United States and Canada with its re-creation of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Tora, Tora, Tora began nearly 40 years ago when six replica Japanese aircraft were donated to the Commemorative Air Force. The Gulf Coast Wing requested assignment of the aircraft and began developing an act for presentation at air shows, which debuted at the Galveston Air Show on June 25, 1972. A living history lesson, Tora's re-creation provides breathtaking smoke, fire and explosions from the pyrotechnics team as a professional announcer explains the purpose, history and performance to the crowd. With the motto "Lest We Forget," the Tora group flies with the intention to help individuals throughout the world understand that war does not discriminate in the pain it causes.

"Wings Over Houston is thrilled to honor Tora, Tora, Tora for their dedication and achievement in the aviation industry," says Bill Roach, executive director of Wings Over Houston Airshow. "The Tora team sets themselves apart with their strong sense of spirit and camaraderie. We are proud they call Houston home."

The act's excellence in the industry was recognized in 2001 with the Art Scholl Award of Showmanship, one of the two highest distinctions awarded by the International Council of Air Shows, the premier air show industry trade association. Comprised entirely of volunteers, Mark Allen, Tora Lead; Gordon Webb, Pyro Lead; and the two announcers, Ken Crites and Roger Gauert, provide the leadership to the Tora team of pilots, crew and 12 aircraft.

## **TORA, TORA, TORA RECEIVES LLOYD P. NOLEN AWARD/ add 1**

Previous Lloyd P. Nolan honorees include Deborah Rihn-Harvey, Gordon Bethune, Gene Kranz, Maybelle Fletcher, Ralph Royce, Herb Kelleher, Charles Hutchins, Tuskegee Airmen, Joe Foss, Captain John W. Young, Brigadier General David “Tex” Hill, Marvin “Lefty” Gardner, Vic Agather, Bob Hoover, Anthony LeVier, Burt Rutan, Major General Joe Engle, Mayor General William Anders, Paul Poberezny, the 147<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing/111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron of the Texas Air National Guard, General Reg Urschler and Gene Soucy.

### **About Wings Over Houston**

Wings Over Houston is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community event produced by a volunteer effort of the Gulf Coast Wing and West Houston Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force, with support from the Lone Star Flight Museum in Galveston, is dedicated to showcasing vintage military aircraft, along with the thrills of modern aviation. One of the top air shows in the United States in its category, the Wings Over Houston Airshow attracts more than 80,000 visitors from across the Houston area as well as from around the globe. The 2011 Airshow benefits the Wings Over Houston Airshow Scholarship Program, TSU Aviation Career Academy, Exchange Club of Sugar Land, and the Commemorative Air Force aircraft restoration and flying historical programs, in addition to numerous other nonprofit organizations.

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