



For Immediate Release

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General Aviation Flyover of Washington D.C. Taking Place May 11, will feature a Fire Boss Aerial Firefighting Aircraft

ALEXANDRIA, VA—MAY 8, 2024—The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's (AOPA) National Celebration of General Aviation DC Flyover will occur on Saturday, May 11. The flyover will feature nearly 60 general aviation aircraft, including a Fire Boss, which is a single-engine Air Tractor 802F equipped with Wipaire's amphibious floats to scoop water from nearby water sources for aerial firefighting. Air Tractor, a member of the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA), has been building agricultural aircraft for 50 years, and they developed the AT-802F in 1990.

The Fire Boss can drop up to 14,000 gallons per hour and perform continuous scoops and drops on fires for multiple hours. Most AT-802 aircraft are flown in agricultural or aerial firefighting roles, but many are operated in other special-use roles such as hauling fuel to remote areas, oil spill cleanup, drug eradication, and military surveillance platforms.

The National Celebration of General Aviation DC Flyover aircraft will represent the roles and eras of general aviation aircraft since 1939 and will commemorate the first proclamation of Aviation Day by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the creation of AOPA 85 years ago. Visitors and residents of Washington D.C. will have a great view of the flight from the National Mall area, and the event will be streamed live on AOPA's YouTube channel with AOPA Live anchor Tom Haines and veteran aviation journalist Miles O'Brien providing commentary starting at 11:45 a.m. EDT.

The aerial application industry, which treats over 127 million acres of cropland a year—nearly one-third of the nation's total—will be highlighted in the celebration. A number of aerial application businesses treat crops and provide firefighting services. The speed of aircraft, and their ability to reach areas impenetrable by ground have made them a crucial aspect to crop production and fire prevention for 103 years.

The aircraft, in 22 different flights, will follow the Potomac River to downtown Washington where they will fly over the National Mall before heading down Independence Ave. Aircraft will fly through airspace that has been closed to anything but military and emergency aircraft since September 11, 2001, and through the ultra-secure P56 airspace, which has been sealed off for decades. The planes range from antiques to the very newest aircraft, including recreational, training, amphibious, and homebuilt, along with military and law enforcement aircraft.

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The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) represents the interests of the 1,560 small businesses in the U.S., whose owners and pilots are licensed as professional commercial aerial applicators that use aircraft to enhance food, fiber, and bioenergy production, protect forestry and control health-threatening pests. For more information, please visit AgAviation.org.