



Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

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MEDIA ADVISORY

***Australian Aviator and OU Student to Be Honored During Annual Awards Banquet
January 23, 2007***

CONTACT:

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WHO:

The Wiley Post Commission

WHAT:

3rd Annual Wiley Post Spirit Award Banquet

WHY:

To award the "Wiley Post Spirit Award" to Australian aviator Jon Johanson and the \$5,000 Pearl Carter-Scott Aviation Scholarship to University of Oklahoma student Thomas Luman

WHEN:

Friday, January 26, 2007

Reception at 6:30 p.m.; Banquet at 7:30 p.m. (*Private reception from 3-5:30 p.m. - good opportunity for one-on-one interviews with Johanson and former recipients Andy Keech and Cheryl Stearns, as well as Richard Van Grunsven, designer of the Van's RV-4 aircraft that Johanson flew around the world three times*)

WHERE:

Petroleum Club, 100 N. Broadway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

General Thomas P. Stafford

(**Note:** Crosby Harris, the granddaughter of Winnie Mae, will be attending the banquet. Winnie Mae was the daughter of Wiley Post's employer, F.C. Hall, and the person after whom Post named his famous Lockheed Vega aircraft.)

BACKGROUND:

Jon Johanson, a nurse and midwife, is the first international recipient of the **Wiley Post Spirit Award**. He is the first person to fly solo over the South Pole in a single engine aircraft and the first person to fly around the world solo three times in a home-built aircraft. He also holds multiple world speed records.

The **Wiley Post Spirit Award** was created to recognize an individual in general aviation who best exemplifies the innovative and pioneering spirit of Wiley Post. In particular, the award recognizes an individual who has not received the financial support of either the government or a large corporation but has dedicated his or her own time, money and hard work to further advance the field of general aviation.

The last two recipients of the award were Andy Keech of Washington, D.C. and Cheryl Stearns of North Carolina.

Thomas Luman is a freshman who is studying aviation management at OU who hopes to become a flight instructor following graduation and one day fly for a major airline.

The **Pearl Carter-Scott Aviation Scholarship** honors Oklahoman Pearl Carter-Scott, famed Chickasaw aviatrix. Carter was a pioneer in her work in aviation and with the Chickasaw Nation. She was founding board member of the Wiley Post Heritage of Flight and Transportation Museum and personal friend of Wiley Post.