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Henry Gourdji Named Winner Of 65th Annual Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Award

Alexandria, Va. -- The Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Foundation is pleased to announce Henry Gourdji, a long-time senior official with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) who led the development of a renowned global safety audit program, as the 2021 recipient of the Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Award.

Gourdji, who recently retired from ICAO, spent the last 22 years of his career developing and managing the organization's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), which has established a foundation for global aviation safety.

The program, which focuses on eight specific areas crucial to providing effective safety oversight, is widely recognized for its thoroughness, transparency, and contributions to both the flight operations and air navigation arenas.

An active pilot, Gourdji also spent more than three decades in Canadian civil service, including 10 years at Transport Canada managing the country's Civil Aviation National Audit Program.

"Henry Gourdji's tireless commitment to developing, implementing, and expanding USOAP represents a significant contribution to global aviation safety that will pay dividends for years to come," said Jim Burin, Chair of the Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Award committee. "Henry's dedication and insistence on global collaboration have created a legacy that plays a central role in ensuring safe civil aviation operations in every part of the world, every day."

The 65th annual Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Award recipient was announced September 22. Gourdji was honored during a special virtual ceremony as part of the 74th Flight Safety Foundation International Air Safety Summit.

About the Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Foundation and Award

On April 14, 1945, after visiting family in Pittsburgh, Mrs. Laura Taber Barbour was aboard a Pennsylvania Central Airlines DC-3 when it crashed into the rugged terrain of Cheat Mountain near Morgantown, West Virginia. All passengers and crew were killed. In 1956, her husband, Dr. Clifford E. Barbour and son, Cliff, established the Award in her honor. For nearly 60 years, this long distinguished award has recognized those responsible for crowning achievements in aviation safety worldwide.

The Award was established through early association with the Flight Safety Foundation and from its founding has enjoyed a rich history of Award Board members, nominees and Award

LAURA TABER BARBOUR

A I R S A F E T Y A W A R D

recipients. In 2013, the Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Foundation was formed from members of the Award Board, the aviation community and the Barbour family. As the foundation plans to broaden the scope of its intent, with great purpose, the Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety Award will continue to spotlight those champions who pioneer breakthroughs in flight safety. For more information on the foundation, the award, and past winners, visit <http://LTBAward.org>

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