

- **THANK YOU, TOM (POBEREZNY – po-ber-ez-nee EAA PRESIDENT) FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION. AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO THE OSHKOSH AREA AND THE GREAT STATE OF WISCONSIN.**
- **YOUR DEDICATION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION IS ONE REASON WHY AMERICAN HEROES LIKE CHUCK YEAGER AND BOB HOOVER ARE VISITING THE CONVENTION TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER. CHUCK AND BOB...THANKS FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT.**
- **IT CERTAINLY IS GREAT TO BE BACK IN OSHKOSH AND TAKE PART IN “WISCONSIN: ONWARD AND UPWARD DAY AT EAA.”**

- **WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT, TOM...THAT THE SMALL GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTS THAT GATHERED IN YOUR FATHER'S BASEMENT IN 1953...WOULD GROW TO HAVE MORE THAN 168,000 MEMBERS AND 90 CHAPTERS AROUND THE WORLD.**

- **44 YEARS AFTER THE EAA FIRST GOT OFF THE GROUND IT'S BECOME A WISCONSIN TREASURE. AND IT STANDS AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU MIX THE DREAM OF A DETERMINED INDIVIDUAL WITH THE WISCONSIN SPIRIT.**

- **THE EAA HAS ALSO GROWN TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNIQUE QUALITY OF LIFE WE SHARE IN WISCONSIN. AND I'M GRATEFUL TO TOM POBEREZNY, HIS FAMILY AND THE EAA FOR THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN MAKING OSHKOSH AND THE FOX VALLEY AN ENJOYABLE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY.**
- **THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED.**
- **THE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION BRINGS MORE THAN \$50 MILLION INTO WISCONSIN DURING ITS WEEKLONG FLY-IN AND CONVENTION...BUT THE EAA IS A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC PRESENCE YEAR-ROUND.**
- **THE EAA IS A MAJOR EMPLOYER IN THE FOX VALLEY WITH AN ANNUAL PAYROLL OF MORE**

THAN \$5 MILLION. AND IT PROVIDES GOOD JOBS FOR MORE THAN 150 FULL-TIME AND 92 PART-TIME WORKERS YEAR ROUND...AND HUNDREDS MORE DURING THE FLY-IN. DURING THE 1996 CONVENTION, EAA EMPLOYMENT SWELLED TO NEARLY 600 MAKING IT ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN THE CITY.

- **AND OF COURSE...IT IS A MAJOR WISCONSIN TOURIST ATTRACTION.**
- **MORE THAN 800,000 PEOPLE MADE THEIR WAY TO OSHKOSH TO TAKE PART IN THIS ONE-OF-KIND EVENT IN 1996. AND WHILE THEY WERE HERE, THEY GENERATED MORE THAN \$40 MILLION FOR THE FOX VALLEY ALONE.**
- **THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE EAA EXTENDS BEYOND THE ENTRANCE GATES OF THE CONVENTION AND MUSEUM. THE EAA HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH HUGE CROWDS**

AND AN EXTREMELY LOYAL GROUP OF FOLLOWERS THAT RETURN YEAR AFTER YEAR ...EVEN THE OSHKOSH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE USES THE EAA AND THE NAME RECOGNITION IT PROVIDES TO HELP LURE COMPANIES TO THE FOX VALLEY.

- **THE HORIZON OUTLET CENTER...RIGHT ACROSS HIGHWAY 41...IS HERE BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO BE NEXT TO A MAJOR ATTRACTION LIKE THE AIR ADVENTURE MUSEUM. THE MUSEUM DRAWS MORE THAN 110,000 VISITORS EACH YEAR OUTSIDE THE CONVENTION WEEK...STOP AND THINK OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT IN TERMS OF JOBS AND REVENUE THE MALL HAS GENERATED DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF THE EAA.**
- **MANY OF THE VISITORS COME FROM WITHIN A DAY'S DRIVE, BUT THE MUSEUM ALSO ATTRACTS VISITORS FROM THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD.**

- **TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE CONVENTION THE MUSEUM PARKING LOT WAS FILLED WITH CARS FROM IOWA, MICHIGAN, KANSAS, MINNESOTA, KENTUCKY, FLORIDA, ILLINOIS, NORTH CAROLINA AND MISSISSIPPI. IN FACT, ABOUT 85 PERCENT OF THE CONVENTION'S VISITORS EACH YEAR COME FROM OUTSIDE WISCONSIN.**
- **A SURVEY, TAKEN TWO YEARS AGO, SHOWED GUESTS FROM MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES VISITED THE MUSEUM WITHIN A THREE-MONTH PERIOD. OF THOSE...**
- **22 PERCENT WERE STAYING OVERNIGHT**

- **36 PERCENT WERE SHOPPING IN THE AREA**
- **AND 54 PERCENT HAD EATEN IN A LOCAL RESTAURANT.**
- **CLEARLY THE EAA IS NOT ONLY A MAJOR TOURISM DRAW FOR OSHKOSH...BUT IT HAS A MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT THAT IS FELT WELL BEYOND THE FOX VALLEY.**
- **IN 1996, THE 800,000-PLUS VISITORS SPENT MORE THAN \$40 MILLION IN THE FOX VALLEY AND MORE THAN \$51 MILLION THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE STATE. THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS PAID TO AREA RESIDENTS WHO RENT THEIR HOMES, ROOMS OR CAMPERS.**
- **FOR LAST YEAR'S CONVENTION...MORE THAN 10,000 VISITORS STAYED IN HOMES AROUND THE OSHKOSH AREA, PAYING FROM \$25 TO \$85 A NIGHT. AND YOU CAN BET THEY WERE TREATED TO SOME OLD-FASHIONED WISCONSIN HOSPITALITY AND FRIENDLINESS.**

- **THE WISCONSIN PEOPLE ARE JUST ONE PART OF THE STATE'S \$7 BILLION A YEAR TOURISM INDUSTRY. TO CONTINUE OUR SUCCESS WE MUST BE WILLING TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE...TO INVEST IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ATTRACTIONS THAT WILL ENSURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO DRAW MORE AND MORE VISITORS EACH AND EVERY YEAR.**
- **THROUGH 1996, THE EAA HAS SPENT MORE THAN \$11 MILLION TO DESIGN, BUILD AND DEVELOP THE CONVENTION SITE. ANOTHER \$15 MILLION WAS SPENT TO BUILD AND EXPAND THE AIR ADVENTURE MUSEUM AND ADJACENT PIONEER AIRPORT.**

- **IN ADDITION, THE EAA WILL INVEST NEARLY \$4 MILLION DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS TO CONSTRUCT THE YOUNG EAGLES LODGE AND BUILD A CLASSROOM AREA FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.**
- **THE INVESTMENTS THE EAA IS MAKING ARE NOT ONLY INVESTMENTS IN THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF THE ASSOCIATION...BUT THEY ARE INVESTMENTS IN THE OSHKOSH COMMUNITY AND THE GREATER FOX VALLEY.**
- **AND JUST AS THE EAA IS PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE, WE MUST DO THE SAME. WE MUST BECOME PARTNERS WITH THE EAA TO ENSURE THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GOOD JOBS WITH GOOD PAY...ATTRACT MILLIONS OF VISITORS TO THE AREA AND CONTINUE TO STIMULATE GROWTH AND NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.**

- **I ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO BE A STRONG PARTNER OF THE EAA BY BECOMING A SPONSOR. BY WORKING TOGETHER...THE SKY IS THE LIMIT.**
- **THANK YOU.**