

# Restored Vietnam-era UH-1 “Huey” Helicopter Returns to Active Service on Sept. 27 as part of Indiana First Response

*Non-profit organization welcomes original Huey Pilot Giles Portzer, Mayor Ballard and other special guest at dedication ceremony at 5:30 p.m., activities run from 3 to 8 p.m.*

INDIANAPOLIS - Forty years after being deactivated from service, a Vietnam-era “Huey” UH-1 Helicopter from the 117<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter company will be re-enlisted to teach school children about military aircraft history and assist Indiana first responders in search and rescue missions.

On Saturday, Sept. 27, at 5:30 p.m., the Indiana Air Search and Rescue (IASAR) will dedicate the restored helicopter at the Indianapolis Metropolitan Airport in Fishers, Ind. Mayor Greg Ballard is scheduled to attend, as is Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient Sammy L. Davis. Other special guests include General Herb Spier and Giles Portzer, the original pilot of the Huey being dedicated at the event.

“When it is not in active service, we have a great opportunity to educate Hoosier children and young adults on the important role our Huey and other military equipment played in the history of American warfare,” said Charles Walker, IASAR director and founder.

While the restoration effort took three years and more than 300 hours, IASAR will not treat the helicopter just as a historic artifact.

“Because our Huey can take-off and land in areas that other rescue equipment cannot, our crew of first responders can assist police and military personnel in search and rescue and other missions when needed,” Walker continued.

The Bell UH-1 series Iroquois, better known as the “Huey,” has served in all four branches of the American uniformed services and in the armed forces of at least 48 other nations. The aircraft began arriving in Vietnam in 1963 and was used for MedEvac,

command and control, and air assault; to transport personnel and material; and as gun ships. More than 9,000 Hueys have been produced since the 1950.

The Huey dedication is the centerpiece of a larger fundraiser for the IASAR. From 3 to 8 p.m., the Indianapolis Metropolitan Airport will be host for helicopter rides, historic warbirds, flyovers, and static displays as well as a silent auction, games, food and music for the whole family.

“This event is also a time to honor the veterans who flew in defense of our country and gives us a chance to celebrate their bravery and honor them,” said Walker.

While kids will be admitted for free, the \$5 adult admission fee will be used as a donation for future renovation projects, including the restoration of the “Tooie” C-47 Skytrain, acquired by Walker earlier this year. “Tooie” was a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne division in WWII that was at Normandy on D-Day.