

NEWS RELEASE

United States Air Force Reserve

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prominent local philanthropist to take flight with USAF Thunderbirds

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. – Karen Karamanoukian, prominent member of the local community and philanthropist, is scheduled to fly with the USAF Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team on Wednesday, September 7 at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The Thunderbirds host a “Hometown Hero” orientation flight program in communities throughout America during their air show season. The program is designed to highlight someone from the local area who has sacrificed time and effort to better their community.

Karamanoukian was selected for this honor based upon her work with local charity groups, as well as returning and wounded veterans. Her involvement in the local community goes further due to her extensive work and aid to children. To date she has assisted with more than 20 organizations and groups which assist or benefit people in need.

Karamanoukian will receive a one-hour Thunderbird orientation flight in one of the world’s premiere fighter jets – the Lockheed Martin F-16D.

Hometown hero flights are not a reward for individual’s actions. The program is a way to showcase American people doing amazing things in their communities, in line with the amazing efforts put forth by America’s Airmen every day.

Media interested in covering this event should report to the main gate on Lockport Road. Between the hours of 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm you will be able to cover pre-flight training with the Home Town Hero flight scheduled for 6:00 pm. Post-flight interviews will be available at approximately 7:00 pm. Media may show up at any time during this event.

For more information please contact the 914th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office at 716-236-2136.

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