



*Where There are Wings, There is Hope*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Famed Aerobatic Pilot Joins Wings of Hope Honorary Council**

**ST. LOUIS, MO (February 2, 2016)** — [Patty Wagstaff](#), a world-renowned aerobatic pilot, has joined the Honorary Council of [Wings of Hope](#), the St. Louis-based aviation charity. Wagstaff, a six-time member of the U.S. Aerobatic Team and one of the world's top air show pilots, has won the gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic-level international aerobatic competition. She is the first woman to win the title of U.S. National Aerobatic champion—and one of a few to win it three times.

“Patty is a wonderful addition to our Honorary Council,” said Wings of Hope President Don Hamblen. “She joins us not only as a world-class aviator, but as a longtime humanitarian with a heart for serving others.”

For over 10 years, Wagstaff has traveled to East Africa to train pilots of the Kenya Wildlife Service, a state corporation that protects Kenya's elephants, rhinos and other natural resources from poachers. Wagstaff also served as a Cal Fire pilot for three years before starting the Patty Wagstaff Aerobatic School in St. Augustine, Fla. Wagstaff was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2004 and was the 1994 recipient of the National Air and Space Museum's Award for Current Achievement. Wagstaff's Goodrich Extra 260 airplane and life story are on display in the museum's Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight Gallery.

### **About Wings of Hope**

Wings of Hope is a global humanitarian charity that has been helping the world's poor since 1962. The nonprofit works in Africa, Asia and the Americas, partnering with communities to improve their health, education, food security and economic opportunity. In 2003, the charity established its Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program, the only free medical air transport service in the U.S. with air ambulances that can accommodate stretchers, wheelchairs and medical equipment. Wings of Hope has been twice nominated (2011, 2012) for the Nobel Peace Prize and dedicates 90 cents of every dollar directly to programming. For more information, visit [wingsofhope.ngo](http://wingsofhope.ngo) or call 636-537-1302.

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