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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Proclaims September 2011 as Centennial of Kansas Aviation

On Sept. 2, 1911, Albin K. Longren (also known as the “birdman”) flew his #1 aircraft southeast of Topeka and marked the beginning of the aviation industry in the state of Kansas. In honor of that achievement, Gov. Sam Brownback has declared September as the Centennial of Kansas Aviation.

Brownback recently signed a proclamation recognizing the milestone and Longren as being the first Kansan to make the inaugural flight in a Kansas built aircraft.

The Kansas Department of Transportation’s Division of Aviation will present the Proclamation to the Aviation Explorer’s Squadron Post 8 on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, at the Topeka Billard Airport. Post 8 is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing young Kansans with aviation and leadership experiences since 1952.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to not only acknowledge a past achievement, but to also help the kids in this program understand that they’re connected to history – that they’re carrying on a rich legacy of Kansas aviation,” said Jesse R. Romo, KDOT Aviation’s manager of federal-state affairs.

The delivery of the proclamation will take place immediately following the Post 8 ground school at approximately 9:45 A.M. in hangar 15 at 3600 Sardou Ave. in Topeka. The event is free and open to the public.

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