



SAFETY GRAM

September 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is my final Safety Gram message to you. I have loved my involvement with you, but it's time for my family and I to move on to the next great thing the AF has to offer me...retirement! I've become increasingly sentimental in my old age...especially as I look back at my involvement with USAF Aero Clubs. The Aero Club system is an amazing collection of people that are passionate about aviation; I've been privileged to be a part of that.

I haven't been able to visit every club during my tenure, but I made it to most of your clubs. Over and over I saw people working very hard to ensure Aero Clubs remain an amazing opportunity for people to participate in the joy flight. Aero Clubs are a small part of the Air Force's living heritage that we all get to be a part of, thanks to what we put into them.

So what is it that makes the Aero Clubs such amazing gems? It's the high standards the club maintains (and the even higher standards we each hold ourselves to) that set the industry benchmark for safety in general aviation. It's the comradery that means people want to spend time together telling aviation stories regardless of generational differences. It's the pride you take in ensuring the airplane is taken care of, clean and ready for the next member. It's the time many of you spend volunteering time and expertise. In short, what makes Aero clubs exceptional is you, the members. I'm confident that will never change...stay passionate about aviation!

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of something so exceptional. Blue skies and fair winds!



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