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Fellow CHPA Members,

Warmest regards from the board of the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association and my fellow directors on the CHPA BoD. I hope this summer finds you well and back to travelling while enjoying seasonal events!

As you know, travel the last two years has been challenging, but 2022 is the year to reconvene a conference to gather with friends of the association, members, and fellow combat aircrews. The re-scheduled CHPA conference in the greater DC area is slated for 13-15 October at the Best Western Plus just outside of Fort Belvoir, in Alexandria Virginia. The marquis event of the re-scheduled 2022 CHPA Conference is a guided tour and banquet at the newly opened US Army Museum, just outside the gates of scenic Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

As we make our way towards the annual CHPA Business Meeting on October 15th, there are important initiatives underway you will want to know about moving forward. First, the board of directors has a slate of fresh directors who were newly appointed in 2021. This board has met quarterly to do the work of the association and ensure the continuity of our shared mission – ‘Preserving the Legacy’. These efforts can be summarized as the 3 R’s that span a two-year implementation plan for CHPA.

REBRANDING

This is a CHPA leadership initiative to expand the appeal of CHPA to be inclusive of all eras of warfare, for all combat aircrews, and across all services. You have likely seen a new logo that encompasses all helicopter airframes with all four major eras of helicopter

warfare. This new logo is a symbol meant to have broad appeal, practical uses for promotional items, and gain traction with the newest generation of combat aircrews to join the ranks of CHPA.

REENERGIZE

The pursuit of the latest generation of combat helicopter pilots and aircrew is an effort to recruit, expand membership, and preserve the legacy of recent wars that have ended. The airframes may have changed, but shared combat experiences of the founding members in 2005 are present among the newest members who join today. A shift of CHPA emphasis to gain and maintain members includes efforts to add member categories such as our fallen in the posthumous category. Consideration by the membership at the upcoming annual meeting with input on a potential change to bylaws of the association standing of c.19 to a c.3 charity. Your board seeks your input and asks members to get involved at the business meeting and in committee work!

REINVESTMENT

CHPA board directors are actively working to restart awards that become investments in our membership and CHPA outreach efforts. As stewards of the financial portfolio of the association, board directors are very deliberate about our accountability of operational funds, scholarship fund, and member contributions by way of dues and or donations. An exciting opportunity to expand the scholarship fund is under consideration presently. In the vein of awards, a selection committee will kick off in 2023 to seek the next Tredway awardee for presentation and award at the 2023 CHPA conference.

I am excited to see my *fellow combat aircrews* in the greater DC area in October and gain your perspectives and input on the way ahead for the organization.

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President of the Board, CHPA