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**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS TO HEADLINE  
14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BETHPAGE AIR SHOW AT JONES BEACH  
TAKING PLACE MAY 27-28, 2017**

**Levittown Native Major Kevin Walsh, Thunderbird #7, to Return to Long Island**

*Announcement Made Today at the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) Convention in  
Las Vegas, Nevada*

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**Bethpage, NY – December 6, 2016** - Bethpage Federal Credit Union, New York State’s largest credit union, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, are very pleased to announce that the United States Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach taking place on Saturday, May 27, 2017 and Sunday, May 28, 2017. The announcement was made today at the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) Convention at the Paris Las Vegas in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This will be the legendary demonstration squadron’s fifth appearance at the show. Long Island will also be welcoming a hometown hero – Thunderbird # 7 Major Kevin Walsh. Currently Director of Operations for the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, Walsh grew up in Levittown, and attended St. Anthony’s High School in South Huntington. Major Walsh’s family still resides on Long Island.

Also announced at the ICAS Convention is the return of the United States Army Golden Knights Parachute Team in the 2017 lineup. The United States Navy Blue Angels have also committed to headline the 2018 Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach. This will be the eighth time the U.S. Navy Blue Angels have headlined the Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach, one of the country’s largest and most prestigious air shows.

“We are excited to welcome back the United States Air Force Thunderbirds to Long Island for their fifth headlining appearance at the Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach,” said George Gorman, Deputy Regional Director, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

“Over 439,000 spectators chose the Bethpage Air Show as their Memorial Day holiday weekend destination in 2015 when the Thunderbirds last visited. We are confident that their return to Long Island in 2017 will draw an equally large crowd as well,” said Linda Armyn, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Bethpage.

Last year, the Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach saw record breaking attendance when 453,000 people attended the show which included its biggest line up ever. During this show, for the first time, three jet teams performed including show headliners, the United States Navy Blue Angels, the Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds, and the Breitling Jet Team.

The Thunderbirds were formed in 1953, and since have been charged with demonstrating the professionalism of Airmen and the capabilities of modern airpower. Their performance at the Bethpage Air Show will include approximately 40 maneuvers, featuring formation flying and solo routines.

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