



PHOTO BY CHRIS HIBBEN/SNAP 180 MEDIA

**12**

**About the cover:** Photographer Chris Hibben caught Chuck Aaron, the only aerobatic helicopter pilot in the United States, as he took his Red Bull Air Force MBB Bo-105 "over the moon" at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

## Features

Flying Inside, Thinking Outside the Box.....	<b>12</b>
Thousands Visit HAI HELI-CENTER at EAA's AirVenture.....	<b>15</b>
General Aviation's Voice on Capitol Hill .....	<b>18</b>
A Guide to Health Care Reform.....	<b>20</b>
What Is a Just Culture?.....	<b>22</b>
Buying a Helicopter: Valuation, Financing, and Leasing Considerations.....	<b>24</b>
HAI Proud to Support American Heroes.....	<b>27</b>
HFI Heritage Series: Harold "Hal" W. Symes.....	<b>28</b>
Standing Together to Protect General Aviation.....	<b>38</b>
HELI-EXPO 2013 Convention Preview.....	<b>41</b>

## Departments

President's Message.....	<b>4</b>
Safety .....	<b>6</b>
Flight Operations and Technical Issues.....	<b>8</b>
Last Hover .....	<b>9</b>
Legislative Affairs .....	<b>10</b>
Market Trends.....	<b>34</b>
Calendar of Events.....	<b>36</b>
Regulations and International Affairs.....	<b>60</b>
Staff Updates .....	<b>63</b>
HFI Updates.....	<b>65</b>
Focus on Affiliates.....	<b>68</b>
Membership.....	<b>74</b>
New Members .....	<b>78</b>
Index of Advertisers.....	<b>80</b>



**15**



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
CLIFFORD MARTIN

**27**



**68**



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIFFORD MARTIN

## HAI Proud to Support American Heroes

By Matt Fackner

On September 8, 2012, the American Heroes Air Show, guided by Volunteer Director Mike Grier and his team of assistants, touched down in Canton, Georgia, for the seventh consecutive year. With the promise of a spectacular helicopter-only air show and the chance to get an up-close view of the aircraft once they had landed, a crowd of 5,000 people packed into Heritage Park.

As a volunteer-run, free-admission event, the Heroes Air Show serves up a special sense of patriotism and community in honoring those who work in America's military, law enforcement, fire service, public and private emergency medical service, homeland defense, and national security.

This year's event partnered with American Veterans Traveling Tribute and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to create a special naturalization ceremony for members of

the U.S. military. With a 360-foot replica of the Vietnam Memorial as a backdrop, members of the military recited their Oath of Allegiance in what was clearly a touching ceremony.

The American Heroes Aviation Network is seeking a volunteer event director to organize a show in the northeastern United States. Interested parties should contact Jim Paules at [jim@heroes-airshow.com](mailto:jim@heroes-airshow.com).

Because it is a nonprofit entity, the American Heroes Aviation Network relies on sponsors to literally and figuratively get the annual series of air shows off the ground. Lunch for the 24 pilots participating in the day's events in Canton was once again provided by HAI.

The Atlanta Helicopter Pilots

Association (AHPA), an HAI Affiliate Member, also joined in planning and executing the event. AHPA President John Woodruff expressed his pleasure in working with the American Heroes, saying, "AHPA and its members continue to support the American Heroes event because they honor those choosing a career devoted to saving lives, protecting our country, and providing public safety operating the most versatile and unique flying machines ever built."

As the fifth and final Heroes Air Show of the year, Canton followed the hugely successful shows at Ft. Meyers, Austin, Los Angeles, and Seattle. The Heroes Aviation Network will not wait too long before putting on their next event, scheduled for the Phoenix area in early 2013. Visit [heroes-airshow.com](http://heroes-airshow.com) for details. **R**

*Matt Fackner is the regulations and international affairs assistant for HAI.*