Philadelphia International Airport Salutes Veterans

and Unveils POW-MIA Chair of Honor

PHILADELPHIA – Philadelphia International Airport's annual Veterans Day celebration today featured the unveiling of a National Prisoner of War (POW) – Missing in Action (MIA) Chair of Honor in the International Arrivals Hall. It also paid tribute to veterans and recognized Airport employees who have served in the military.

Mayor Jim Kenney, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Patrick J. Hughes, and former Vietnam War POW Ralph Galati spoke at the event. Other speakers included U.S. Rep. Bob Brady as well as State Representatives Maria Donatucci and Martina White.

Airport CEO Chellie Cameron, who served as a U.S. Air Force Captain, opened the event. The Joint Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Honor Guard presented the Colors, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Jessey Kyle.

The Chair of Honor is purposefully left empty as a reminder of service members who had been prisoners of war and those who are still missing. Since World War II, over 82,000 American military service members are unaccounted for.

"The chair will be a reminder to all our international arriving passengers coming to Philadelphia and to their families that our POW and MIA veterans will never be forgotten and there is always a place for them here," said Cameron.

The Villanova Brass Band played patriotic tunes and closed the celebration with U.S. Armed Services fight songs.

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