



News Release

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Savannah James Christens Newest Goodyear Blimp *Wingfoot Two* *Akron Native Welcomes Latest Addition to Goodyear's Blimp Fleet*

AKRON, Ohio, October 21, 2016 – The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company's newest blimp – *Wingfoot Two* – was christened today by Akron native Savannah James in front of a crowd more than 2,000 at Goodyear's Wingfoot Lake Hangar in Suffield, Ohio. The official christening of *Wingfoot Two* marks the formal induction of the airship into Goodyear's fleet of iconic blimps.

"To be part of such an incredible legacy of elite women who have been recognized through Goodyear's century-long tradition of christening the new blimps is a special moment for me, my family, and the entire Akron community," said James. "I hope this honor will inspire and uplift all kids growing up in Akron and encourage them to follow the Goodyear blimp's lead in believing the sky is truly the limit for each and every one of them."

James was born and raised in Akron, where she met her future husband, Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James. James actively volunteers for the LeBron James Family Foundation, and started the Foundations' I PROMise Makeover, an annual event to empower young women.

James joins the ranks of accomplished women to christen Goodyear blimps, including aviator Amelia Earhart (1929) and astronaut Dr. Sally Ride (2000). On hand to support Savannah was her husband, LeBron James, her children and parents, and *Wingfoot One's* christener, "Good Morning America" anchor Robin Roberts (2014).

"Savannah's Akron-born roots and passion for improving the local community made her a natural choice to christen *Wingfoot Two*," said Goodyear Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President Richard J. Kramer. "Goodyear has a long-standing tradition of enlisting strong,

accomplished women to christen our iconic airships, and we are proud to welcome Savannah to the family.”

James christened *Wingfoot Two* with the ceremonial breaking of a champagne bottle against the blimp’s gondola.

ABOUT WINGFOOT TWO

Wingfoot Two is one of three technologically-advanced Goodyear blimps to join the fleet, with cutting-edge avionics and flight control systems. Its sister ship, *Wingfoot One*, was christened in 2014. As part of the new fleet, *Wingfoot Two* was built bigger, faster and stronger than the company’s prior-generation GZ20A model blimps:

- **Bigger:** At more than 246 feet long, *Wingfoot Two* stretches nearly the length of a football field, and is 50 feet longer than previous blimps.
- **Faster:** New blimps hit highway speeds of up to 73 mph - more than 20 mph faster than previous models.
- **Stronger:** *Wingfoot Two* sports a semi-rigid skeleton composed of aluminum and carbon fiber, compared to the soft, inflatable bodies used in previous fleets. The frame is now packed with 297,527 cubic feet of non-flammable helium, making it more buoyant and capable of lifting 700 pounds more than its predecessors.

For improved maneuverability, custom computer-controlled avionics better regulate engine thrust and movement. Other new features include enhanced aerial television coverage capabilities, increased flight range to reach more communities and cover more of fans’ favorite events, and a larger in-flight passenger experience with unparalleled panoramic views.

“*Wingfoot Two*’s induction into the blimp fleet marks an extraordinary milestone for our Goodyear airship program and our company,” said Kramer “We’re proud to have this majestic airship represent our 118-year history and our associates around the world.”

Since 1917, Goodyear has built more than 300 lighter-than-air vehicles for public relations and defense applications, many built at the Suffield facility.

Editors’ note: pictures and video for media use from the Oct. 21, christening event are available to view or download here: <http://www.wingfoot2mediacenter.com/>.

About Goodyear

Goodyear, founded in 1898 in Akron, is one of the world's largest tire companies. It employs approximately 66,000 people and manufactures its products in 49 facilities in 22 countries around the world. Its two Innovation Centers in Akron, and Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg strive to develop state-of-the-art products and services that set the technology and performance standard for the industry. For more information about Goodyear and its products, go to www.goodyear.com/corporate.

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