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May 4, 2001

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Aviation Pioneer Lillian Sherman, 89, Takes First Helicopter Ride

Torrance, CA — 89-year-old Lillian Sherman – the very first woman to achieve the position of "Final 'A' Inspector" for Douglas Aircraft – went for her first helicopter ride today. Mrs. Sherman has flown in every type of fixed-wing aircraft, and even the Goodyear Blimp, but until today had never experienced rotary wing flight. Sherman's grandson, Dan Duffy, notified Robinson Helicopter Company of this gap in his grandmother's extensive list of flight experience, and Robinson was delighted to have the opportunity to introduce Mrs. Sherman to the world of vertical flight.

Sherman and her grandson were flown from Torrance Airport in a four-seat R44 Raven helicopter by Robinson test pilot, Dan Benton. The flight included an aerial tour of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Harbor, and Redondo Beach. At the conclusion of Mrs. Sherman's flight, she was greeted by Frank Robinson, president and founder of Robinson Helicopter. When he asked Sherman how she liked the flight, she smiled and reported, "It was great. Now I've flown everything."

Sherman worked at Douglas Aircraft in El Segundo, California from 1942 to 1959. She was one of the original "Rosie the Riveters," and over the years, worked her way up to "Final 'A' Inspector." Sherman was a pioneer in her field, opening the door for other women to pursue aerospace careers that were – up to that point in time – traditionally dominated by men. "I'm little, but I'm not shy," states Sherman at 5'0" and 95 lbs. "I try to have spunk." Her male counterparts had their doubts. "A lot of men told me I'd never get it," she remembers. "No woman had ever made 'final.' I think they were praying I'd flunk. I wanted to make final to prove to myself and others I could do it." Her grandson, Dan Duffy, says, "She took a lot of ridicule from the men, but she went to bat for women who couldn't go to bat for themselves. In early April, the Los Angeles City Council – as part of the city's celebration of Women's History Month – recognized Sherman with a 'Pioneer Woman Award' for her role in breaking ground for women.

Robinson Helicopter Company is the world's leading manufacturer of civil helicopters and builds the two-seat Model R22 and the four-seat Model R44. Robinson helicopters are used throughout the world for a variety of private, business and commercial operations. For more information about Robinson, visit us on-line at www.robinsonheli.com.

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