



[ACCESS IMAGES](#)
Images for Media/Press Use Only

CONTACT: Kurt Robinson
(310) 539-0508, ext. 210
pr@robinsonheli.com

December 22, 2004
For immediate release

Smithsonian Adds R22 and R44 Helicopters in New Dulles Exhibit Hall

Torrance, CA—The Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum (NASM) has added a two-seat Robinson R22 and a four-seat Robinson R44 helicopter to its new exhibit hall at the Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C. Both aircraft represent significant helicopter industry milestones; the R22 was the prototype used by Robinson Helicopter Company to obtain the design's FAA Type Certificate in 1979, and the R44 is the aircraft that was flown by British grandmother, Jennifer Murray, in her two record-setting 'round-the-world' journeys.

R22 Serial Number 0002, was purchased by Robinson Helicopter Company and donated to the museum last year. After the first R22 prototype was damaged, ship 0002 was used for several years of flight testing and technical analysis to complete the Model R22's original FAA Certification program and obtain the FAA Type Certificate in March of 1979. The two-seat R22 entered serialized production later that year and quickly developed a reputation for low cost, reliability, and efficiency. It became the top-selling civil helicopter worldwide and holds most of the performance records in its weight class including speed and altitude. Nearly 3,800 R22s have been produced. Serial Number 0002 flew a total of 5,985 hours before joining NASM's exhibit of historic aircraft.

The exhibit's bright-red R44 Raven was owned by British grandmother, Jennifer Murray, the first woman to circumnavigate the world by helicopter. Murray traveled 30,000 miles in ninety-seven days, encountering sandstorms, cyclones, and smoking volcanoes. Her historic flight not only earned her a place in the Guinness World Record Book, but also raised nearly £500,000 (British Pounds Sterling) for the *Save the Children Foundation*, a nonprofit humanitarian relief organization working in more than 40 countries to create lasting, positive change in the lives of children in need. "Today, the R44 is known for what it is," says Murray, "great performance, reliability, comfort, and 270 degree visibility - the most popular helicopter in the world." The Robinson R44 entered production in 1993, and nearly 2,100 units have been delivered to date.

The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum maintains the largest collection of historic air and spacecraft in the world. It is also a vital center for research into the history, science, and technology of aviation and space flight. For more about NASM, go to <http://www.nasm.si.edu/museum>.

Robinson Helicopter Company is the world's leading manufacturer of civil helicopters. For additional information about Robinson, visit the website at www.robinsonheli.com.

###