

January 12, 2014

Mr. Mark Baker, President
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MD 21701 USA

Dear Mr. Baker,

Re: AOPA Homecoming Fly-In and 75th Anniversary Celebration

As President of AOPA Israel, affiliate to IAOPA, I am both saddened and disappointed that AOPA has chosen to schedule this important event at KFDK on October 4, 2014 – also Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

Scheduling such an important event on Yom Kippur demonstrates gross insensitivity to Jewish pilots everywhere and to the larger, international Jewish community. It has the effect of saying that we are not welcome. To my knowledge, there are hundreds of Jewish pilots and instructors in the United States holding American, Israeli, Canadian and other foreign pilot licenses, who will not attend the event due to your regrettable scheduling!

In your new Presidency, I hope you will be more inclusive and sensitive when planning such events in an effort to promote a stronger and more unified aviation community.

Sincerely,



Shay Popper, President
AOPA Israel

CC: AOPA International affiliates,
Jews in Aviation