



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MERIDIAN FOUNDER CELEBRATES MILESTONES

Teterboro, NJ, December 20, 2011 – J. Kenneth Forester, an early pioneer of private aviation services at Teterboro Airport (TEB) in New Jersey, celebrated his 90th birthday on December 1, 2011. Coincidentally, this milestone year also marks the 65th anniversary of his arrival at TEB, the place where Mr. Forester first began his legacy in aviation.

Forester started his aviation career in 1941 when he volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Shortly after graduating from P-38 school in 1943, he was selected for test pilot duty. From 1943 to 1946, he flew most types of US military aircraft, including fighters, bombers, and transports. Of special interest, he flew the first American-made jet (P-59 Airacomet), and the first fighter jet used operationally by the USAAF (P-80 Shooting Star).

After Forester was discharged from service in 1946, he opened an executive hangar at Teterboro Airport, the first of several business endeavors at TEB that would evolve over the decades into today's Meridian, a full service private aviation company. In 2002, Forester was honored with the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic award by the FAA, which recognizes aviation maintenance professionals with at least 50 years of experience. In 2008, he was inducted into

the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame in recognition of his many contributions to the aviation industry.

Today, Meridian is still family-owned and led by Forester's son, Kenneth C. Forester, making Meridian the longest continuously operating aviation services company in the New York Metropolitan Area, and the last family-owned business at Teterboro Airport. The legacy of the Forester family is one of love of country and aviation. Following in his father's footsteps, his son graduated from the USAF Academy and flew the F-102 Delta Dagger during the Vietnam War.

#### About Meridian:

Meridian is a full-service, private aviation company based in Teterboro, NJ, located just minutes from New York City. The company has earned numerous industry awards and accolades for its outstanding service and state-of-the-art facility. Meridian owns and operates businesses that include Aircraft Management, Aircraft Maintenance, Air Charter, and a world-class Executive Terminal / FBO that was completed in 2006.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.meridian.aero](http://www.meridian.aero) or call us at 201-288-5040.

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