



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Meridian Names Third Generation Family Member to Board of Directors**

*Appointment Underscores Company's Commitment to Growth*

**Teterboro, NJ, September 8, 2020** – Meridian, the award-winning private aviation company, is pleased to announce that Kelly Forester Pappas is joining its Board of Directors. Pappas, who for the past eight years has strategically focused on Aviation Sales and Business Development, specifically in the Bay area, has been involved with the business since she was a teenager, when she worked as a Customer Service Representative.

Meridian, the longest-established FBO and maintenance operation at Teterboro Airport, evolved from the business founded by Pappas' grandfather, John Kenneth Forester (known as Ken Senior), in 1946. Today, the company operates FBOs at Teterboro Airport (TEB) in New Jersey and Hayward Executive Airport (HWD) in the San Francisco Bay area, as well as an FAA-approved Part 145 full-service maintenance operation that includes an in-house parts department and detailing team. The company recently sold its charter and aircraft management business to Jet Linx, a leading private jet management and jet card membership company.

“The realignment of our business allows us to focus on the foundation the company was built on and gives us greater opportunity to grow our FBO and aircraft maintenance businesses,” said Ken Forester, CEO and owner of Meridian. “We understand that maintaining a 100 percent customer-centric approach is critical. Streamlining our business model will help us achieve this goal and position us well into the future.”

“I'm very proud to be part of an organization that prioritizes customers' needs first and foremost. I have been humbled by the hard work and dedication of Meridian employees who share in this goal every day. It is an honor to work alongside them,” says Kelly Pappas. “Moving forward, we are committed to continuing to set the bar for excellent customer service in this rapidly changing industry. Our objective is to exceed expectations and remain an industry leader for years to come.”

One initiative that Kelly strongly advocates is the integration of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) into corporate aviation. “I am passionate about finding ways to reduce the industry’s carbon footprint and SAF will help us get there”, Pappas adds. “Meridian can be an industry leader by offering SAF to our customers, which is critical at this point in time.”

Pappas currently works at Meridian’s Santa Rosa regional office, which she opened in 2012. She is an active participant in the Northern California Business Aviation Association and Women in Aviation International. Pappas is a graduate of Yale University and holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

“We are excited about this next chapter in our history,” Forester added. “As we continue to grow our business, we are proud of the fact that in addition to the hands-on approach we as owners of the business take, we also have one of the longest-tenured teams in the industry. I know Kelly understands that component of our business well, and I am pleased that she will be serving a key role as we move into the future.”

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## **About Meridian**

Meridian is an award-winning, private aviation company with Fixed Base Operator (FBO) locations at Teterboro Airport (TEB) near New York City, and Hayward Executive Airport (HWD) near San Francisco. Meridian also owns and operates an FAA-approved Part 145 Repair Station in Teterboro. Meridian Teterboro has earned numerous industry awards and accolades for its exceptional service: 2020 AIN FBO Survey - Top 5% FBO in the Americas and #1 FBO in Northeast; 2020 *Professional Pilot* PRASE Survey - Top 20 Best FBOs in US, Top 10 Best Independent FBOs in US, and Best CSRs (Betsy Wines and Victor Seda). Meridian was voted #1 FBO at Teterboro Airport in both surveys. Meridian Hayward has consistently received outstanding reviews from new and returning customers on popular business aviation websites. Both Meridian Teterboro and Meridian Hayward are CAA Preferred FBOs at their respective airports, IS-BAH certified, NATA Safety 1<sup>st</sup> and NATA Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Clean approved.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://meridian.aero> or call us in Teterboro, NJ, at 201-288-5040, or in Hayward, CA, at 510-674-2500.

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