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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WEST STAR AVIATION'S Gary Edwards Retired and Mark Birmingham Promoted**

**East Alton, IL, September 8, 2015**—West Star Aviation's Gary Edwards, with 37 years in aviation, has retired. Gary had been leading the aircraft paint programs at West Star's Grand Junction, CO (GJT) location for 22 years. He was instrumental in developing the reputation of quality work by the company.

Mark Birmingham, an employee for eight years at West Star, has been promoted as the new Paint Program Manager at the GJT location in Gary's place. Mark grew up in the industry, since his father worked in aviation through his career, and owned an aircraft painting business. In addition to Mark's experience at West Star, he has spent a lifelong career painting aircraft.

"We'd like to thank Gary for his 22 years of service and welcome Mark into his new role in continuing the reputation of quality paint work," says Dave Krogman, General Manager of GJT, West Star Aviation.

Mark can be contacted directly at (970) 683-4873 or [mbirmingham@wsa.aero](mailto:mbirmingham@wsa.aero).

Voted #1 Preferred MRO in *Professional Pilot* magazine's annual "Preferences Regarding Aviation Services and Equipment" (PRASE) Survey for two consecutive years, West Star Aviation, Inc. specializes in the repair and maintenance of airframes, windows, and engines, as well as major modifications, avionics installation and repair, interior refurbishment, surplus avionics sales, accessory services, paint and parts.

In addition to its facilities in East Alton, IL; Grand Junction, CO; and Columbia, SC. West Star Aviation runs the maintenance operations at Aspen-Pitkin County Airport in Aspen, CO, Chicago Executive Airport in Chicago, IL and Centennial Airport in Denver, CO. The company also provides complete FBO services for transient aircraft at its newly remodeled East Alton and Grand Junction facilities. West Star Aviation, Inc. is an industry leader in technical experience and expertise while providing world-class customer services in all the organization's divisions.

For more information visit [www.weststaraviation.com](http://www.weststaraviation.com) or call 800-922-2421.