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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Carolina BalloonFest Extends Condolences and Pledges Ongoing Safety

Statesville, NC (8/1/2016) - The organization of National Balloon Rally Charities, Inc. is deeply saddened to learn of a 16 person fatal hot air balloon accident in Lockhart, Texas.

"We extend our hearts, thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of all people involved," said Pressly Mattox, Chairman of Carolina BalloonFest (CBF). "We are members of a small hot air balloon community and this is a difficult time for our ballooning family."

The CBF will not comment about the specifics of the accident since it is currently under a National Transportation and Safety Board investigation. Nothing is more important than the safety of our pilots and passengers during the weekend of Carolina BalloonFest. We anticipate learning from this investigation and will certainly use any forthcoming information to uphold and continue our impressive safety record.

"As a member of Balloon Federation of America, we intend to continue monitoring news and official reports. We are committed to ongoing, continuous improvement and seek ways to improve safety during our hot air balloon festival," said Mattox.

Pressly Mattox
Chairman, National Balloon Rally Charities, Inc.

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