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Goodyear Returns to Williams Gateway and Valley Skies

MESA, --- The Goodyear "Spirit of America" airship returns to Valley skies – and a "home away from home" at Williams Gateway Airport – this week to promote Goodyear and Purcell Tire and Rubber Company.

The "Spirit of America" was christened on Sept. 5, 2002, by Letitia Driscoll, the mother of Stephen Driscoll, a New York police officer who died in the South tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Like Goodyear's other U.S.-based airships, the "Spirit of America" is 192 feet long, 59.5 feet high and holds 202,700 cubic feet of helium. It has a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour with a cruising speed of 30 miles per hour. Although rides are not available to the general public, the airship will be moored near the Airport's Air Traffic Control Tower and will visible to visitors of the Airport when it is not flying.

The Airport is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority that includes the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa, and Queen Creek. For more information, visit www.flywga.org.