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**AIAA EXPRESSES CONCERN AND SYMPATHY FOR CONGRESSWOMAN GABRIELLE
GIFFORDS AND OTHER VICTIMS OF TODAY'S SHOOTING IN TUCSON**

January 8, 2011 – Reston, Va. – The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) today expressed the thoughts and prayers of its members for the recovery of Democratic Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Tucson, Ariz., from the violent attack on her life earlier today. A gunman shot Rep. Giffords and more than a dozen others during a public event the Congresswoman held this morning at a supermarket in Tucson. Early reports indicate that some six people have died, and that Rep. Gifford is in intensive care.

AIAA President Mark J. Lewis stated: “On behalf of the members and staff of AIAA, I condemn today's senseless tragedy, and express our collective thoughts and prayers for the recovery of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Our thoughts are also with Congresswoman Giffords' husband, NASA astronaut Capt. Mark Kelly, United States Navy, and her parents, Spencer and Gloria Giffords. There have been few more dedicated to their office or better friends to space exploration and AIAA, than the Congresswoman, and we wish her Godspeed in her recovery. We also extend our sympathies to the families of the other seventeen victims of this senseless act.”

Congresswoman Giffords, who was re-elected to a third term in office in 2010, is a member of the House Committee on Science and Technology, and it's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. She is a strong advocate for the American space community, and for the continued mission of space exploration. Her husband is a veteran of three space shuttle missions. Giffords has spoken at several AIAA events, most recently at an “August is for Aerospace” event co-sponsored by the Phoenix and Tucson sections of AIAA.

AIAA is the world's largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession. With more than 35,000 individual members worldwide, and 90 corporate members, AIAA brings together industry, academia, and government to advance engineering and science in aviation, space, and defense. For more information, visit www.aiaa.org.

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