Contacts:

Rosemary Barnes – SJC
408-392-1199 / rbarnes@sjc.org

Captain Chris Salcido – SJFD
408-794-6959 / sjfdpio@sanjoseca.gov

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NEWS RELEASE

Good Samaritans and Airport Employees Trained as First Responders Help Save a Life at Mineta San José International Airport

- 7th Life Saved at SJC Since AED Program Began in 1998 -

Editor's Note: Good Samaritan and first responder Mike Vanneman is scheduled to arrive into SJC from Los Angeles on Southwest Airlines flight #908 on April 24th at 10:30 a.m. Vanneman is available for media interviews in Terminal B baggage claim.

San Jose, Calif. - A typically routine morning at Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) suddenly became not so normal on Sunday, April 19, 2015. A 76-year-old male passenger arriving on a Southwest Airlines flight at Gate 24 experienced a sudden cardiac arrest and is lucky to be alive today due to responsive and heroic travelers and Airport staff who sprang into action to assist.

While San José Fire Department and other City staff were being dispatched via 911 and en route, a Good Samaritan traveler who was waiting for his outbound flight came to the victim's aid.

Good Samaritan Mike Vanneman, a Los Altos resident and founder of TVG Executive Search who also is a volunteer firefighter trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), immediately knew what to do. Vanneman began chest compressions on the unresponsive passenger and requested a fellow traveler grab an AED located nearby the gate. The AED audibly instructed a shock to the heart, which Vanneman along with two travelers with nursing training performed three times.

Airport Operations and San José Police–Airport Department staff were on scene within minutes. They were soon followed by San José Fire personnel from on-Airport Station 20 and off-Airport Station 5. The passenger was stabilized and transported to a local hospital by ambulance where he continues his recovery today.

(more)

"I along with the others who responded happened to be in the right place at the right time, and am pleased to know that my first responder training and the teamwork exhibited by fellow travelers and Airport staff resulted in the ailing passenger being alive today," said Vanneman. "I have reflected on the incident many times during my travels this week, and despite a surreal experience, I am reassured by the very real and positive outcome."

This is the second time Vanneman has saved the life of a SCA victim in the past few months. He performed CPR on a man at a Los Altos restaurant in September 2014. While no AED was available in this instance, the ailing diner was alert and responsive when paramedics placed him in an ambulance.

"This is the seventh time an AED is credited with saving a life at SJC, and we're pleased to see our investment in AED equipment and personnel training continue to pay off," said Director of Aviation Kim Becker. "We have 47 AED units installed throughout the airport, including four on Segways that SJPD officers use to get around and respond to incidents in our very large facility."

In addition to the well-trained and responsive Good Samaritans, numerous Airport employees were instrumental in assisting the ailing traveler and helping ensure his privacy and dignity during a very stressful situation for him and his wife who was traveling with him.

A quick-thinking FAA air traffic controller is also credited for stopping aircraft taxiing adjacent to Terminal B so that Station 20 personnel could quickly respond to the gate during a very busy morning.

SJC prioritizes the safety and security of all users, and the AED program is instrumental in helping the Airport meet this goal. An AED is used to treat sudden cardiac arrest by sending an electric shock to the heart. If the patient isn't treated immediately, the oxygen-starved brain and other vital organs can swiftly lead to death. In fact, every minute lost reduces the chance of survival by 10 percent.

About Mineta San José International Airport
Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) is Silicon Valley's airport, a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.4 million passengers in 2014, a 7 percent increase year-over-year. SJC offers approximately 130 daily flights on 11 domestic and international carriers to 31 nonstop destinations. SJC's five-star customer service experience sets it apart from other Bay Area and US airports. Airlines and passengers respond positively to SJC's customer amenities, including modern terminal buildings, free and fast WiFi, comfortable seating with built-in power outlets, a luxurious, award-winning lounge open to all travelers, a rental car center conveniently located across from the terminals and Global Entry kiosks to expedite arriving international passengers. Silicon Valley's airport is located in San José, California's third largest city and the nation's tenth largest city. SJC facts can be found here. For more airport information, visit www.flysanjose.com.

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