



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Freedom Aviation Statement about Federal Jet Fuel Contract**

Lynchburg, VA/March 28, 2019 – Today, The Daily Beast published a news story about an ongoing U.S. Department of Defense jet fuel contract with Freedom Aviation, as well as the travel of Jerry Falwell, Jr.

The news outlet portrayal of this contract is misleading and lacks important details, as follows:

- The contract to provide the U.S. Department of Defense with fuel at the Lynchburg Regional Airport has been in place for over 20 years. The term of the contract signed in June 2017 began in November of 2016 and was merely a renewal of the pre-existing contract. Since 2000, the highest volume of jet fuel delivered to the Defense Department under this jet fuel contract in any given year was during the Obama Administration.
- The entity that controlled the "fuel farm" at that airport had been Aviation Resources, Inc., d/b/a Virginia Aviation. Freedom Aviation acquired Aviation Resources, Inc., d/b/a Virginia Aviation in 2014.
- When the Defense Department contract for fuel at the Lynchburg Regional Airport came up for renewal, it was in the name of Freedom Aviation and not Virginia Aviation due to the acquisition. [Freedom Aviation](#) had already been providing fuel services as a non-controlling provider, and through its acquisition of Virginia Aviation's contracts and personnel, had decades of experience in providing the federal government with fuel when the DOD contract was awarded.
- Freedom Aviation, the fixed-base operator at Lynchburg Regional Airport, a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty University operates separately as a stand-alone business. Freedom Aviation offers aviation services, including Part 135 Air Charter, Fuel, Hangar, Maintenance, Avionics and Aircraft Sales to the public.
- When Freedom Aviation provides any products or services requested by a political campaign or a candidate for public office, it must bill for those products or services like any other vendor so it has not made an in-kind contribution to the campaign or candidate committee. Such charges and payments are consistent with federal tax and aviation laws.
- Such payments made to Freedom Aviation when Jerry Falwell, Jr. traveled to Iowa for a personal appearance on behalf of Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. in February of 2016; and again when former Governor Jeb Bush appeared at Liberty University's Commencement in May of 2015. In the latter case, the Political Action Committee supporting Mr. Bush's candidacy paid for political personnel who accompanied the candidate on the flight to Lynchburg, VA.

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