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**MAYFLOWER BALLOON SAILS INTO FIRST PLACE DURING THE
35th ANNUAL GREAT FOREST PARK BALLOON RACE**
Kevin Knapp captures winning title for the first time in 14 years

ST. LOUIS – For Kevin Knapp, “X” marked the spot as he landed the Mayflower Transit hot-air balloon in first place during the 35th annual Great Forest Park Balloon Race in St. Louis on Sept. 15.

Knapp, a retired major of the U.S. Army, has been a professional balloon pilot for more than 15 years and has flown the Mayflower balloon since its inaugural year in 2005. This year marks the first time he has won the race in St. Louis.

“Although I was closest to the Energizer Bunny balloon for most of the flight, I was honestly surprised when they announced my name and the Mayflower balloon as the winner,” said Knapp. “It’s a tremendous honor and I’m proud to hold the title. Overall, it was a great day and a fantastic race.”

According to event organizers, the Great Forest Park Balloon Race hails as the “most well-attended, single-day balloon race in the country.” Judges determine the winner of the race based on which balloon lands closest to the Energizer Bunny “Hot Hare” balloon.

About Mayflower Transit

Mayflower Transit, founded in 1927, is proud to celebrate its 80th anniversary this year. As one of the nation’s oldest and largest van lines, Mayflower transports household goods, electronic equipment, trade show exhibits and displays, works of art and specialized freight, utilizing a network of 700 affiliated agents throughout the United States and around the world. Further information about the company is available at www.mayflower.com.