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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPS Mourns the Loss of Dr. Samuel Blankenship

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Nov. 14 – It is with great sadness that we announce that Dr. Samuel M. Blankenship, DEPS' Editor in Chief and first Executive Director, passed away on October 8, 2018 in Westminster, Colorado after fighting an uphill battle with cancer. Dr. Blankenship was an exemplary leader who brought his remarkable passion, curiosity, experience and sincere belief in others to DEPS. His personal touch, quick wit, and endless charm will inspire and stay with those that knew him always. It is without any doubt that the Directed Energy Professional Society and the entire directed energy (DE) community will mourn this loss for years to come.

Dr. Blankenship, an Air Force veteran and Principal Research Scientist at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, was instrumental in the establishment and growth of DEPS, as well as its numerous educational outreach activities. As a result of his efforts and years of dedication, DEPS is now the largest professional society in the world dedicated to the advancement of directed energy capabilities.

“Sam was a leader, that above all else, believed in the power of the individual. He was not one to say, “no,” but instead, “what are your next steps and how can I help?” It was his unwavering belief in me that propelled me to where I am today and for that I will be eternally grateful,” said Cynnamon Spain, Director of Meetings for DEPS.

Colleague and long-time friend, Dr. Tom Meyer said, “His contribution to the success of DEPS is unmeasurable. Sam truly put the name “Professional” into the DEPS organization. We will all miss him greatly.”

The Directed Energy Professional Society fosters research, development and transition of directed energy (DE) technologies, including high energy laser (HEL) and high-power microwave (HPM) technologies, for national defense and civilian applications through professional communication and education. For more information, visit www.deps.org.

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