



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Contact:** Marie C. Rosa

P: 212.867.1770

M: 646.771.3269

[marie@wingsclub.org](mailto:marie@wingsclub.org)

### **THE WINGS CLUB FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES DOUG PARKER AS ITS 2021 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

**\*\*To Be Presented at the 79<sup>th</sup> Awards Gala in October\*\***



**New York, NY – June 15, 2021** – The Wings Club Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce that Doug Parker, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Airlines Group, Inc., is the recipient of this year’s Distinguished Achievement Award. Acknowledging Parker’s outstanding accomplishments in the field of aviation, The Wings Club Foundation will present this award on Oct. 22, 2021, at the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Gala to be held at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York.

Parker’s extraordinary career in aviation has spanned over 35 years and he is the longest-serving CEO in the airline industry. He was named CEO of America West Airlines just 10 days before

Sept. 11, 2001 and led the carrier through the crisis. Under his leadership, America West merged with US Airways in 2005, and US Airways merged with American in 2013. Parker has led American Airlines Group as chairman and CEO since 2013.

Parker is a strong supporter of the people of the airline industry. Over the past year in particular, he played an integral role in the industry's efforts to take care of aviation workers by fighting to secure government support to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The passage of the CARES Act in March 2020 helped to stabilize the industry and keep its workforce intact amidst an unprecedented decline in demand for air travel.

Doug serves on the Airlines for America (A4A) Board of Directors, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors and the oneworld Governing Board.

The [Wings Club's Distinguished Achievement Award](#) has been presented annually since 1975. Notable past recipients include Neil Armstrong, Senator John Glenn, President George H. W. Bush, Brigadier General Charles E. Yeager, Steven Udvar-Hazy, T. Allan McArtor, W. James McNerney, Jr., Tom Enders and Phebe N. Novakovic as well as present and former airline CEOs, including Robert Crandall, Herbert Kelleher, Gordon Bethune, Sir Colin Marshall, Wolfgang Mayrhuber, Sir Richard Branson, Dave Barger, Gary Kelly, and Willie Walsh.

The Wings Club Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Its mission is to focus on initiatives aimed at supporting scholarships for students who will pursue a career in aviation or aerospace, providing programs to educate in the field of aviation, and supporting charitable organizations that use aviation to help those in need. The Wings Club Foundation comprises more than 1,000 members including industry leaders, pilots, professionals in related service organizations, and students of aviation.

Recognizing significant achievements that contribute to the advancement of aviation and aeronautics, The Wings Club Foundation presents not only the [Distinguished Achievement Award](#), but also the [Outstanding Aviator Award](#) and the [Distinguished Scholar Awards](#). For more information on The Wings Club Foundation, visit [www.wingsclub.org](http://www.wingsclub.org). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [You Tube](#).

###