



# THE WINGS CLUB

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# NEWS

## WINGS CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS GALA – October 23, 2015

If the dramatic first few chords of the theme song from *2001: A Space Odyssey* were not enough to quiet the sellout crowd at the 2015 Wings Club Foundation Awards Banquet, the realization that Commander Scott Kelly was delivering opening remarks from the International Space Station orbiting 249 miles above the earth certainly got their attention. What's more, this was just the beginning of what was to be an extraordinary evening.

CNN Aviation Correspondent Richard Quest reprised his role as the evening's MC and set an upbeat pace for the program as he introduced Mr. John Plueger, the 73rd President of the Wings Club Foundation. Taking the stage, John welcomed the attendees and proudly introduced the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award, Mr. John Leahy.

In its first year as the Wings Club Foundation, seven scholarships totaling over \$100,000, including the William R. DeCota Scholarship, were awarded to students from The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Dowling College and Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. Two full-year scholarships were awarded to Vaughn College and Embry Riddle, with all other grants doubling from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Further to the Foundation's mandate of supporting charitable organizations that use aircraft to deliver humanitarian aid and outreach, a check for \$25,000 was presented to Orbis International. Accepting on behalf of the organization was Mr. Kevin McAllister, Charman of Orbis.

After what seemed an unusual request from Richard Quest for everyone to turn off their phones, the lights went down and Jay Leno stepped into the spotlight. Over the next 20 minutes, he had the crowd alternatively laughing and clapping to what could only be described as vintage Leno humor. When John Plueger asked that the lights be taken down again, there was a gasp of surprise when the curtain parted and The Doobie Brothers started to play. The band played several of their hit songs and had the crowd standing at their tables, singing along and dancing to everyone's favorite Doobie Brothers tunes. The entertainment for the gala dinner was privately funded and therefore at no cost to the Wings Club.



Richard Quest



John Leahy, John Plueger

Complimenting John Plueger on the "impressive" evening, John Leahy noted it was a tough act to follow. He then relayed a brief conversation he had with Willie Walsh, CEO of IAG sitting next to him. "Willie and I were chatting over dinner and wondering what we could do now. Willie plays the fiddle and I can actually do a mean jig. So what we would need to do ...if you can bring your fiddle up Willie...no, huh... well, next year."

The "world's only trillion dollar salesman" didn't need to do his jig to hold the attention of the audience. His sincere gratitude to the Wings Club "for recognizing a deal guy" and his crediting "the 500-plus salesmen, marketing people and contract negotiators at the Airbus commercial division" that work for him for making this happen, was enough.

However, when Richard Quest announced the dates for next year's Gala in closing, he noted, "people would pay good money to see Willie on fiddle and John on the jig. If that doesn't get you here next year, nothing will."





# THE WINGS CLUB

## A Message From The President



Winter 2015

*D*ear Wings Club Members:

Looking back, 2015 was a memorable year for the Wings Club. As our first year as a foundation, we made great progress in advancing our mission to support aerospace education.

During this past year, we significantly increased our scholarship awards, doubling the grants to each of the Distinguished Scholar student recipients. We can still do more. The Wings Club membership includes the most prominent leaders in aviation. The breadth of our organization puts us in a unique position to make a difference in student scholarships. We will continue to enhance our scholarship awards with internships and mentoring opportunities with the support of our member companies.

Our development efforts are also gaining momentum. We are making progress building the endowment for our scholarship and humanitarian initiatives. Your support will be critical to our success.

During the fall, the Wings Club luncheons featured another extraordinary lineup of speakers, each drawing sellout crowds. In October at our Annual Gala, it was my great honor to present the Distinguished Achievement Award to John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer – Customers at Airbus. John has certainly had an outstanding career. Our Annual Gala continues to showcase the Wings Club as the premier aviation association.

Looking forward, we have several interesting events planned. In January our luncheon speaker will be Wes Bush, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President, Northrop Grumman and in March our featured speaker will be Doug Parker, Chairman and CEO, American Airlines Group.

In February, IATA and the Wings Club will jointly host the first Aviation Day in the United States. The event will bring together industry experts, senior airline and airport executives, and government authorities to discuss aviation's largest opportunities and key challenges. Tony Tyler, CEO of IATA will be presenting and our keynote speaker will be Robin Hayes, President & CEO JetBlue Airways. We are very excited to host this event with IATA. The Aviation Day will be held at The Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

For 2016, best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Best regards,

John Plueger  
President  
The Wings Club Foundation



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM WINGS CLUB EVENTS

## SEE WHAT YOU MISSED

OCTOBER



**October 23, 2015**

**John Leahy**

**COO - Customers, Airbus**

**Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient**

Sharing advice he received prior to making his acceptance speech, Distinguished Achievement Award recipient John Leahy noted that he was asked to “be very diplomatic, statesmanlike and not mention Boeing.” But, mention Boeing he did. “I do have to mention Boeing...and the fact is they are a great competitor. This industry moves forward due to competition. In this duopoly, we work together to push the envelope. We push technology forward.” Accepting the Award “on behalf of the Airbus Group of 140,000 employees, 3,000 employees in Airbus USA and the 500-plus salesmen, marketing people and contract negotiators at the Airbus Commercial Division,” he closed by acknowledging the industry. “On behalf of this industry and what we have done together, I look forward to the next 15 years.”

NOVEMBER



**November 19, 2015**

**Fabrice Brégier**

**President & Chief Executive Officer**

**Airbus**

**Interviewed by:**

**Mark Streeter**

**Managing Director J.P. Morgan**

**Sr. Publishing Analyst, NA**

The in-depth and fast-paced interview began with the Airbus outlook for the aviation industry. Responding to questions ranging from global growth, the existence of a bubble, and a wide body glut, to oil prices, Mr. Bregier presented an optimistic view of where the industry is today and its growth over the next 20 years. Transitioning to topics about Airbus, he touched briefly on the single aisle aircraft, noting it is “the most profitable family of aircraft within Airbus.” About wide body aircraft, specifically the A380, he remarked, “we believe such a large aircraft has a market and it doubles in size every 15 years.” However, it was a hard sell to airlines that were re-trenching in 2008 and in the economic aftermath. “It was launched too early.” He made news when he announced, “we have to build a business case for re-engineering the A380, so the 2022 date you mentioned is too early.”

DECEMBER



**December 10, 2015**

**Gary Kelly**

**Chairman, President & CEO**

**Southwest Airlines**

**Interviewed by:**

**Mike Derchin**

**Managing Director, CRT Capital Group LLC**

**Sr. Airline Analyst**

After acknowledging “flat” traffic around Thanksgiving, Mr. Kelly went on to note the “all-time record load factors, with traffic up 14% year-to-date...” and “strong earnings growth.” He continued, “the first full year after the culmination of our previous strategies, 2015 gave us the opportunity to lay out our long-term goals. Our goal is to connect people to what is important in their lives. We want to be the most loved, the most flown and the most profitable in the world.” Commenting on 2016 and future growth, he foresaw “2% growth in 2016, as things level out from the capacity growth of 2014... the equivalent of 40 airplanes.” When asked if 2016 will be better than 2015, Kelly responded that it could be. “The revenue environment is always tough to predict. The main driver to support revenue is the new markets integrated from Air Tran; they will mature and provide a revenue boost.”





# THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

## NOVEMBER LUNCHEON



*Mark Streeter, Fabrice Brégier*



*Mary Ellen Jones, Steven Udvar-Hazy, Gwen Lighter*



*Joe DeNardi*



*Bill Boll, Jill Albertelli, Andrew Tanner*



*Vinodh Srinivasan, Jared Keating, Marc Baer, Peter Bohner*



*Carol Nelson, Robin Hayes, Andrew Parton*



# DECEMBER LUNCHEON



*Emily Knight, Herb Knight*



*John Plueger with students from Purdue University*



*Jasper Spruit, Peggy Smith, Robert Kuzma, Renata Larsson, Henk Guitjens*



*Michael Derchin, Gary Kelly and a captive audience*



*Seated: Mary Ellen Jones, Gary Kelly, John Plueger, Barry Eccleston  
Standing: Michael Derchin, Howard Rubel, Chaker Chahrour, Marlin Dailey,  
Michael Van de Ven*



*Jim Good, Mary Ellen Jones*

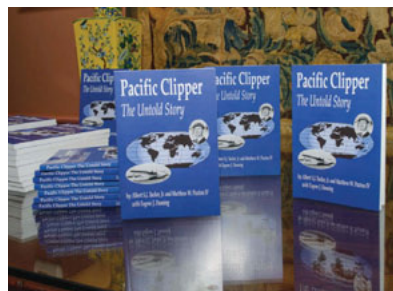
## BOOK READING AND SIGNING: “Pacific Clipper, The Untold Story”

In a Wings Club Foundation special event, the book *Pacific Clipper, The Untold Story* was presented by the authors Albert S.J. Tucker Jr. (Col. USAF Retired) and Matthew W. Paxton IV (historian and publisher of the Lexington News Gazette). Taking place on November 18, 2015, it was just four days prior to the 80th anniversary of the first Pacific flight by Pan American World Airways.

Wings Club Foundation President John Plueger welcomed guests to the historic 3 West Club. He thanked FedEx and Board of Governors member, Jim Parker, Director & Executive Vice President-Air Operations at FedEx, for sponsoring the evening. Ken Gazzola, chair of the Historical and Education Committee, introduced the authors.



The audience was then treated to readings from the book by Matthew Paxton, providing a glimpse of the courage, resourcefulness and cool flying competence demonstrated by Captain Robert Ford and the Pan American World Airways crew. Caught in the Pacific in the days just preceding Pearl Harbor and ending in January 1942, the book tells the story of a crew forced to circumnavigate the globe in wartime, often with only the stars as a guide, in order to return the Boeing B-314 flying boat to the United States. It was the first around-the-world flight by a commercial airliner. The presentation concluded with Paxton’s 94-year-old co-author, Al Tucker, coming to the podium and reading a passage from the end of the book. The passage noted that the trip not only showcased the superb flying skills of the Pan Am crew, it demonstrated the commercial feasibility of around-the-world air service which would soon be introduced by Pan Am.



# AEROSPACE ON CAMPUS SERIES

The popular educational program launched by The Wings Club Foundation in conjunction with *Aviation Week and Space Technology* continues to expand and gain high praise from faculty and students. Under the leadership of Historical & Educational Committee member, Jim Good, three more colleges and universities were visited this fall:

- Purdue University – Dennis Warner, Rolls Royce presenting - September 23, 2015;
- Vaughn College – Mary Ellen Jones, Pratt & Whitney and David Davenport, Flight Safety International presenting – October 15, 2015;
- University of Texas Aerospace and Engineering Department – Bob Craft, Holland & Knight presenting – October 29, 2015.

Demonstrating the potential of the program to integrate the students into additional facets of the Wings Club Foundation and the aviation industry as a whole, a select group of Purdue students were able to attend the December Luncheon as the guests of Southwest Airlines.



*Dennis Warner*



*Greg Hamilton*



*Purdue University Group*



*Mary Ellen Jones*



*David Davenport*

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE HONORABLE DEBORAH LEE JAMES, SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

Jefferies Aerospace and Defense Analyst Howard Rubel and the Wings Club Foundation hosted the special event at which Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force, presented brief remarks and then responded to questions from the audience concerning today's Air Force.

Secretary James highlighted her three priorities:

- Taking care of the people – seeing they get what they need to remain the #1 Air Force in the world;
- Balance of readiness - modernization and the right balance between new programs, new technology and new aircraft;
- Efficiency – making every dollar count in the face of budget cuts.



Reinforcing why taking care of the people is her top priority, she reflected on the story of Airman First Class Spencer Stone. Airman Stone, along with two friends, took down a heavily armed gunman on a French train last August. Thanks to their actions, “everyone on that train got to go home.”





# THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

## *Annual Awards Gala*









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## *Annual Awards Gala*







# THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

## *Annual Awards Gala*



# Silent Auction 2015 Donor List

*The Wings Club Foundation sincerely thanks the companies and individuals who have generously donated to the Silent Auction.*

*This year's donors were:*

<b>Adams Unlimited</b>	<b>Copa Airlines</b>	<b>Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation</b>
<b>Aeromexico</b>	<b>Dassault Falcon Jet</b>	<b>Montage Beverly Hills Hotel</b>
<b>Airbus Americas</b>	<b>Delta Air Lines</b>	<b>Panasonic Avionics</b>
<b>Air Lease Corp.</b>	<b>Divi Aruba All Inclusive</b>	<b>Mr. John L. Plueger</b>
<b>Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo</b>	<b>Doppeldecker Design</b>	<b>Pratt &amp; Whitney</b>
<b>Alaska Airlines</b>	<b>Embraer</b>	<b>Rancho Valencia</b>
<b>American Airlines</b>	<b>Etiihad Airways</b>	<b>Mr. Howard A. Rubel</b>
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<b>Bradford Renaissance Portraits</b>	<b>Hawaiian Airlines</b>	<b>St. Kitts Marriott Resort</b>
<b>Bristol Associates</b>	<b>JetBlue Airways</b>	<b>Turkish Airlines</b>
<b>British Airways</b>	<b>Krauthamer &amp; Associates</b>	<b>United Airlines</b>
<b>CAE</b>	<b>Liberty National Golf Club</b>	<b>Volaris</b>
<b>Cathay Pacific</b>	<b>Lufthansa</b>	<b>The Waldorf Astoria</b>



**THE WINGS CLUB**  
**NEWSLETTER**

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# *Annual Awards Gala*



## SAVE THE DATE

### January Luncheon

January 21, 2016  
The Yale Club

**Speaker: Wes Bush, Chairman, CEO and President**  
Northrop Grumman Corporation

### February Conference

February 25, 2016  
The Grand Hyatt Hotel

**Aviation Day**  
IATA & The Wings Club Foundation  
co-hosted event

### Dublin Luncheon

March 10, 2016  
Inter-Continental Dublin  
**Speaker: TBA**

### Annual Meeting

March 30, 2016  
The Yale Club

**Induction of new Wings Club President, presentation of 2016 Outstanding Aviator Award, Cocktail Reception**

### March Luncheon

March 31, 2016  
The Yale Club

**Speaker: Doug Parker**  
Chairman and CEO,  
American Airlines Group