



THE WINGS CLUB

Wings Club Foundation News
Vol. 58 / No. 1
Winter 2017

NEWS

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

The Annual Awards Gala of 2016 was an exciting event that was uniquely special on so many levels, so it was hard for us to select just a few of the highlights to showcase in the newsletter. It made us think and really examine what it was that made the evening so extraordinary.

- Was it because this was the 74th and last Gala to be held at the Waldorf Astoria due to the iconic hotel's closure for renovations and the Gala's move to a new venue this year?
- Was it that the stage was more crowded with eight student scholarship recipients?
- Was it that the Wings Club recognized a new charity, the Airlink organization, for their work as a rapid-response humanitarian relief organization?
- Was it the fact that this year's honoree, Jim McNerney, was so widely respected and genuinely liked by the people represented in the room? Or, as he put it, "people I am no longer selling to, buying from or competing with." Was it the fact that the video roasting his years at Boeing was so clever and funny? Or perhaps it was his tongue-in-cheek and equally amusing response to the video.
- Was it the fact that our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Richard Quest, literally stripped down to his surfing shorts on stage to introduce the Beach Boys? Or was it because the Beach Boys' music truly resonated with everyone in the ballroom?

Maybe it went deeper than that. Perhaps beneath the networking and reconnecting with peers and old friends, it was the realization that by being there we were all serving a higher purpose: we were contributing to the future strength of the industry we love. Perhaps it was the new mission brought on by the Club's change to a Foundation and its mandate to support college students pursuing an education in the field of aviation that turned an always special event into something spectacular.

The evening's honoree, Jim McNerney opened his acceptance remarks noting, "Tonight's scholarship winners represent the future of aviation, aeronautics and astronautics....perhaps one of them will be standing here receiving this award someday in the near future."

MC Richard Quest seconded the thought when he suggested to the crowd that we pay attention, because "you might be working for them one day."

We can continue to reminisce and speculate about the event, but instead, we decided to provide the stories and photos on the following pages to remind you of your favorite highlights of the evening.





THE WINGS CLUB

A Message From The President



Winter 2017

*D*ear Wings Club Members:

My best wishes to you in this New Year. I'm pleased to report that 2016 was a very successful year for the Wings Club Foundation. In addition to a stellar lineup of luncheon speakers and a spectacular Gala honoring Jim McNerney with our Distinguished Achievement Award, we made real progress in our mission to support students studying for careers in aviation. We also advanced our objectives in supporting organizations that use aircraft to help those in need and to provide programs that educate students about the field of aviation.

Last year we expanded our scholarship programs, adding two new grants for the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation. Overall, we presented scholarships to eight very talented students at the recent Annual Awards Gala. We were also pleased to recognize Airlink for the extraordinary work that they do as a rapid-response humanitarian relief organization.

During the past year, our Aerospace on Campus Program continued to expand. In partnership with Aviation Week Network, the Wings Club presented speaking events at the University of Southern California, California Polytechnic State University and a special event at Cranfield University in the U.K. To date, the Aerospace on Campus program has been presented to over 1,100 students at nine universities.

We kicked off our 2017 Aviation Leader Luncheon series in January with Pedro Heilbron of Copa Holdings, and have a great schedule of speakers lined up for the coming months. Our featured speaker in February will be Bob Fornaro, President and CEO of Spirit Airlines. In March we will host Jeffery Immelt, Chairman and CEO of GE, and in April our speaker will be Paolo Cesar de Souza e Silva, President and CEO of Embraer. In May we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Wings Club with Delta CEO Ed Bastian as our luncheon speaker, and we'll close out the first half of the year with Oscar Munoz, President and CEO of United Airlines in June.

Our ability to attract these industry leaders and the success of all of our initiatives would not be possible without the substantial support of the Wings Club membership. Through your generosity and active engagement, our programs continue to grow and prosper.

I thank you for that support and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Best regards,

Mary Ellen S. Jones
President
The Wings Club Foundation



HIGHLIGHTS FROM WINGS CLUB EVENTS

SEE WHAT YOU MISSED

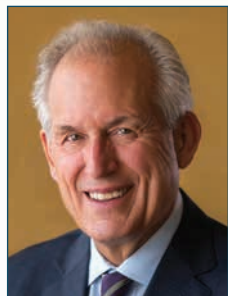
SEPTEMBER



September 22, 2016 – Sight Lecture
Mr. John Leahy
Chief Operating Officer – Customers
Airbus

Remarking that “the keys to the future are often found in the past,” Mr. Leahy proceeded to use the Sight Lecture to deliver a virtual tutorial on the past 40 years in the aviation industry. Citing the introduction of the Boeing-747 in January 1970 as the event that “heralded the mass aviation age,” he also noted it was the year Airbus was founded. He described deregulation in 1978 as the “critical factor that helped drag the industry out of the dark ages,” and enumerated key aviation events over the intervening years. This included carrier alliances, frequent flier programs, the advent of low-cost airlines, the introduction of the A-320 family and the continued innovation in aircraft design and technology that have brought the industry to where it is today. Making the point that global demand for air travel had more than doubled every 15 years since 1970, he concluded that flying had made a profound impact in the way people live in the US and in countries all over the world. “The best thing is, so far, we have succeeded. Let’s keep it up.”

OCTOBER



October 21, 2016 – 74th Annual Awards Gala
Mr. W. James (Jim) McNerney, Jr.
Retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Boeing Company
Recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Achievement Award

Noting that the Distinguished Achievement Award was a “personal high point for me,” Mr. McNerney spoke directly to the people from Boeing. “It would not have happened without your insights, contribution and collaboration, which I not only valued but relied upon heavily along the way,” he stated. “Those of us fortunate enough to lead storied companies like Boeing recognized early on that we have a commitment to posterity. We have a duty to leave them not just in better shape financially and competitively than when we arrived, but to leave them more ethical, more responsible, more respected and in a better position to make sustained contributions to our nation and our world.”

NOVEMBER



November 17, 2016 – Aviation Leaders Luncheon
Mr. Alex Cruz
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
British Airways

Mr. Cruz began his remarks by outlining his time in the U.S., both at university and working for American Airlines and the AMR Corporation for 10 years. At the helm of British Airways for a little more than 200 days, he was “delighted to unveil our new business plan for the next five years.” Built on the concept of “changing the way we fly the world,” Mr. Cruz continued by highlighting many of the changes. British Airways will change the way they care for their customers, change the way they manage their planes, change the way they take on the competition and change the way they support their own people. He also touched on the economic uncertainties caused by Brexit and the need for “the EU and the UK to agree to a comprehensive Air Transport agreement – or, in other words, Open Skies.” He concluded by emphasizing the continued importance of their relationship with the U.S. and its people.

DECEMBER



December 8, 2016 – Aviation Leaders Luncheon
Speaker:
Gary Kelly
President and Chief Executive Officer
Southwest
Interviewer:
Terry Maxon
Retired Aviation Writer
Dallas Morning News

Addressing the Wings Club Foundation’s December meeting for the ninth consecutive year, Mr. Kelly was asked about a wide range of issues by interviewer Terry Maxon. Responding to the question on the state of the airline, Mr. Kelly exclaimed, “It is a remarkable time at Southwest...it is not just that a high tide floats all boats...it is really good times at Southwest!” He enumerated that the operations are outstanding; the employees are engaged; profits are high, boosted by low fuel costs, and they achieved record traffic for the month of November. To the comment that he would be 62 in March and that other leaders had been retiring at that age, he noted that one needs to do what is best for the family before declaring, “I have no plans to retire; no plans to work anywhere else.”





THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON



John Leahy



Mary Ellen Jones, John Leahy, Chris Finoff



David Hart, Samantha Foster, Dawne Hickton



Allan McArtor, Aaron Hollander, James Meyler



York College (CUNY) Students and faculty member Robert Aceves



*Barry Eccleston, Ms. Antonia Romeo,
British Consul General, New York*



NOVEMBER LUNCHEON



Aaron Adderley, Hon. Michael Fahg, Alex Cruz, Ken Hassard, Craig Jenks



Tracy Bink, Alex Cruz, Mary Ellen Jones



Peter Cerda, Lars Pottgiesser, Dennis Tierney



Bruce Jackson, Chip Yates, Nathan Hicks, Lisa Jefferson, Vern Alg



Alex Cruz, Mary Ellen Jones



*Seated: Marlin Dailey, Alex Cruz, Mary Ellen Jones, Robin Hayes, Bob Lekites
Standing: Bob Craft, Abdol Moabery, Frank Pray, Greg Hamilton*





THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

DECEMBER LUNCHEON



Terry Maxon, Gary Kelly



Leah Koontz, Nan Barry, Marilyn Post, Carol Kelly



Thierry Garcy, Marcus Mardirosian, Richard Fuller



Andrew Watterson, Candice Irvin, Peter Giorgio



Jillian Riffino, Nadia Nawbatt, Bernice Stevens



Dave McKay, Gary Kelly



Silent Auction 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:

Air Tahiti Nui	Four Seasons Resorts, Bora Bora
Adams Unlimited	Freestream Aircraft Ltd.
Airbus Americas	Harbour Village Beach Club Bonaire
Alaska Airlines	Hawaiian Airlines
American Airlines	Hotel Indigo East End
Associated Aircraft Group	JetBlue Airways
The Boeing Company	The Kimberly Hotel
The Bondurant Group	Krauthamer and Associates
Bradford Portraits	L-3 Communications
Bristol Associates	Mitsubishi Aircraft
British Airways	Mr. and Mrs. John Horbal
CAE	Oceanwide Expeditions
Cathay Pacific	Panasonic Avionics
Copa Airlines	Mr. Howard A. Rubel
Dassault Falcon	Santa Barbara Beach & Golf Resort, Curacao
Delta Air Lines	Southwest Airlines
Divi Aruba All Inclusive	Sprit Airlines
Doppeldecker Design	United Airlines
Emirates	Volaris
FedEx Corporation	Waldorf Astoria, New York
FlightSafety International	



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Supporting and fostering aviation scholarship is a key element of the mission of The Wings Club Foundation. At the 74th Annual Awards Gala, we presented eight scholarships to some exceptional students and introduced two new grants for the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation. The future looks bright as one day these students will be poised and ready to take over the controls of our industry.



2016 WINGS CLUB FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Scholar Awards:

Lisa Bandel, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Lorenzo Cabral, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
David Sherwood, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Eight Annual William R. DeCota Scholarship:

Rohit Agarwal, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology

Children of the Fallen Patriots Scholarship:

Thomas Mundell, Eastern Kentucky University

The Vern L. Pray Scholarship:

Elizabeth O'Hare, Mount St. Mary's University

The Wings Club Scholars: (Full Year Scholarships)

Lily Ann Alexander, Vaughn College of Aeronautics
and Technology
Lindsey Hanbidge, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

THE WINGS CLUB FOUNDATION AND AIRLINK

The Wings Club Foundation is committed to supporting charitable organizations that use aviation to help those in need. At the 74th Annual Awards Gala, we presented Mr. Robert Brown, President of Airlink with a donation of \$25,000 for their work as a rapid response humanitarian relief organization. Since its inception in 2010, Airlink has facilitated flights for more than 4,000 relief works and 2,500,000 pounds of aid cargo.





THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

Annual Awards Gala







THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

Annual Awards Gala

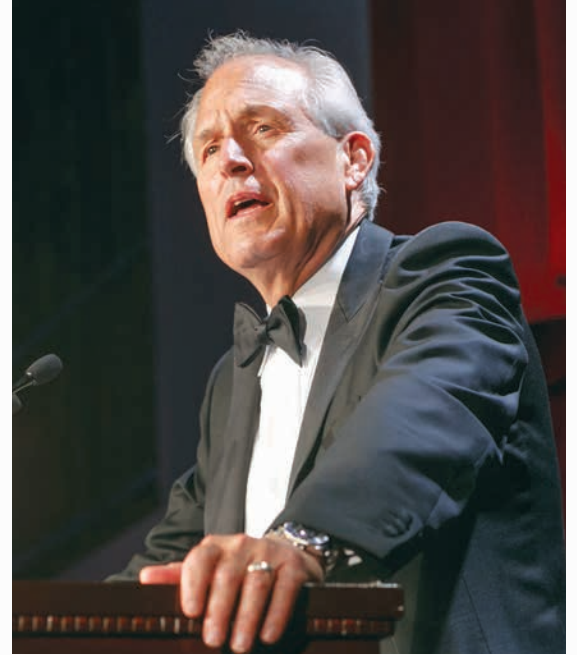






THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

Annual Awards Gala





THE WINGS CLUB
NEWSLETTER

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SAVE THE DATE

February Luncheon

February 23, 2017
The Yale Club

Speaker: Robert Fornaro,
President and CEO
Spirit Airlines

Annual Meeting

March 29, 2017
The Yale Club
Induction of new Wings Club
President, presentation of 2017
Outstanding Aviator Award,
Cocktail Reception

March Luncheon

March 30, 2017
The Yale Club

Speaker: Jeffrey Immelt,
Chairman and CEO, GE

Dublin Luncheon

April 5, 2017
Inter-Continental Dublin
Speaker: TBA

April Luncheon

April 27, 2017
The Yale Club
Speaker: Paolo Cesar de Souza e Silva,
President & CEO, Embraer

