



METROPOLITAN
Airport NewsTM

FEBRUARY 2025

The Journal of the Metropolitan New York Airport Community

Behind the Scenes of a Compassion Flight

Kindness In Action Through Free
Flights for Patients and Veterans

Also Inside:

“No Mail, Low Morale”

The Six-Triple-Eight Delivered!

Altair Airlines: The Brightest Star

Transatlantic Voyage to Southampton, England

Airport Employment, Upcoming Events, & Aviation News



Work & Accident Related INJURY URGENT CARE

Employment, DOT and FAA Physical Exams
Drug and Alcohol Testing



All Testing Completed On-Site

CitiMed JFK

JFK International Airport Building 78A
78a North Boundary Road
Jamaica, New York 11430

718-656-9500

Mon - Fri 7 am to 11 pm

Sat - Sun 9 am to 4 pm

citimedny.com



PUBLISHER

Kathryn Bliss
kbliss@metroairportnews.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Julia Lauria-Blum
jblum@metroairportnews.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Raymond F. Ringston
rringston@metroairportnews.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Beverly Holder
bholderphoto@gmail.com

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Roberta Dunn
rdunn@metroairportnews.com

ADVERTISING

Edward J. Garcia
egarcia@metroairportnews.com

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Tanya Austin
taustin@metroairportnews.com

Maureen Katz
mkatz@metroairportnews.com

Jonathan Katz
jkatz@metroairportnews.com

Robert G. Waldvogel
robertw@metroairportnews.com

**METROPOLITAN
AIRPORT NEWS**

JFK International Airport
PO Box 300877
Jamaica, NY 11430
Tel: (347) 396-0904
info@metroairportnews.com

www.metroairportnews.com

Permissions: Material in this publication may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher.

The views and opinions expressed in *Metropolitan Airport News* are those of the authors and advertisers, and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the publisher. Articles presented in this publication are for general information and educational purposes and do not constitute legal or financial advice.

© Copyright 2025 by Airport Media, Inc.
All rights reserved • Printed in the USA



Welcome to the February issue of the *Metropolitan Airport News*. We are certainly in the middle of a busy, yet typical winter weather season. There have been worse for sure, but preparedness is the insurance that we rely on. While driving around, I see the equipment staged and ready to go. Whatever we get from Mother Nature, we'll deal with it in a safe reliable manner, that's just what we do. Be safe out there, going home is the most important part of your day!



This issue brings to you a feature highlighting an amazing resource to families that are dealing with medical care outside of their home area. Over the years I have had the opportunity to learn about Patient Airlift Services (PALS SkyHope) and the compassionate work that they do. On a personal level, I had a need to seek medical treatment in Philadelphia for one of my children. I did drive a few times, but decided Amtrak was the best for us after the several trips we had to make. My child did fine on the Amtrak, but I can just imagine under different circumstances how car or rail travel could be devastating to the patient. Air travel is really the way to go if you are very ill, and private is so much better than commercial air travel, if it's available. *Metropolitan Airport News* and our advertisers have supported these lifesaving missions over the years. It's a worthy cause that we encourage you and your firms to look into. We are happy to introduce you to them so that you can learn first hand about their mission.

Although Patient Air Lift Services is not the same model as a medical ambulance air lift service, I would like to acknowledge the fatal crash that happened on a medical air ambulance flight out of Philadelphia a few weeks ago. Our prayers are with the family, the four crew members, and the people on the ground that lost their lives or were injured shortly after the flight took off. In our industry and our community, we train extensively for safety in all that we do every day, and we also train extensively in how we will respond in a highly coordinated manner in these rare situations.

I hope you will take an interest in some of the upcoming events for networking, connecting to job opportunities, meeting with Primes in contracting opportunities and more. There is always something going on, we are glad to share these events with you in chance you find them useful.

If you would like to connect with us to offer ideas, share happenings or just to introduce yourself, please send an email to info@metroairportnews.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

I'll see you around the airports!

KATIE BLISS, *Publisher*
kbliss@metroairportnews.com



ON THE COVER

Tommy was diagnosed with a rare disease just 10 days after birth. To get the care he needed, he would have to travel 7 hours to Pittsburgh from his home on Long Island. PALS Skyhope has provided Tommy flights to his treatment for over two years, reassuring his parents that they have one less thing to worry about. (PALS SKYHOPE)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

“No Mail, Low Morale” The Six-Triple-Eight Delivered!



In 2018, I took a first-time trip to Paris. While in Paris, I arranged an independent tour outside the city that I had always wanted to do: a privately guided day tour to the beaches at Normandy, where the D-Day landings took place on June 6, 1944.

After a few days of taking in the city, I arranged a guided tour to Normandy with my husband Doug. On the morning of the tour, we met our guide near the Arc de Triomphe at dawn. After an informative 3-hour drive to the Normandy region, we stopped at Omaha Beach first, followed by Utah Beach. The beaches at Normandy are beautiful stretches of nature with the remnants of German bunkers that conjure somber images of the war's toll on nearly 5,000 Americans and Allies who lost their lives on this region's shores 74 years before that day.

Following this solemn experience, we went to the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach. It is one of 14 permanent American World War II military cemeteries constructed on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The cemetery is the site of the graves of nearly 9,400 war dead, covering 170 acres, with white marble crosses and Stars of David, marking each of the graves, in rows as far as the eye can see.

While pausing at one of the markers, I heard the sounds of Taps in the distance and noticed that flower arrangements had just been placed at some of the graves in that area. I walked over to the markers and read the inscribed names of three of the four American women buried there: **PFC Mary Bankston**, **PFC Mary Barlow**, and **Sgt. Delores Browne**. Serving in the Women's Army Corps (WAC), these three young women were members of the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion. I learned later that the three women were involved in a fatal jeep accident on July 8, 1945, upon returning to



Major Charity Adams & Capt. Mary Kearney inspect the first contingent of the 6888th to arrive in England in February 1945.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

their base in Rouen, France, after visiting an Army installation. Reading their names, I was again reminded of the unsung roles American women played overseas during World War II.

Of the 150,000 Women's Army Corps (WAC) that served their country during the Second World War, 855 of these servicewomen were members of a largely unrecognized contingent of the WAC, designated as the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion, or the “Six Triple Eight.”

In November 1944, after the War Department approved sending members of the 6888 Central Postal Battalion to the European Theater of Operations (ETO), the unit became the only predominantly Black unit of the WAC deployed overseas during WWII. Under the command of Major Charity Adams, the 6888 played a substantial role in supporting and boosting American troop morale during the war.

In the winter of 1945, as troops drove across Western Europe and into Germany, their ever-changing locations hampered the delivery of mail, resulting in a massive backlog of letters and packages numbering in the millions that had all but ceased to be delivered to the exhausted, battle-weary soldiers fighting on the front. For troops stationed in the ETO, mail was a lifeline connecting them to their loved ones backhome and was a highly anticipated and deeply valued morale booster.

Many of the 7,000,000 civilians and military personnel from the United States who served in the ETO had identical names, such as the 7,500 individuals named Robert Smith. Army officials reported a shortage of qualified postal officers within the ETO, and the titanic backlog of undelivered mail exploded... seriously hurting troop morale, which grew to an all-time low. Hence, the 6888 Battalion was first tasked with clearing up the mammoth backlog in Birmingham, England, and they were given six months to do it. However, with the many barriers they faced as a segregated unit, they were not expected to succeed.

So, in February 1945, after a treacherous two-week sail across the Atlantic where they survived brushes with German U-boats, the 6888th arrived in Birmingham. Upon their arrival, they found warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail intended for members of the Armed Forces, United States Government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the ETO.

The 6888th immediately got to work and created effective processes and filing systems to track individual servicemembers, organized “undeliverable” mail, determined the intended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail, and handled mail addressed to servicemembers who had died. Adhering to their motto of “No mail, low

morale,” the women processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month backlog of mail within three months. After Birmingham, the Six Triple Eight traveled to Rouen, France, in May 1945, and later Paris, and worked through a separate backlog of undelivered mail dating back as far as two to three years.

The unit returned to the United States at the completion of its duty, and the 6888 was disbanded on March 9, 1946. Upon their arrival home, there was no fanfare or celebration of their accomplishments, and like other groups of American women who served their country so well, their story remained largely unrecognized and their sacrifices untold – until more recently.

In early December of 2024, my knowledge of the 6888 Central Postal Battalion widened after Queens, NY resident **Afi Phoebe** (aka Theresa Roach), the daughter of one of the 6888th Battalion’s service members, contacted me after reading a story that I wrote for *Metropolitan Airport News* about accredited women war correspondents of WWII.

Afi wrote, *‘I read your Editor’s Notebook in the October 2024 issue and told my sister about it. We thought that we could share with you even more, broadening your periscope on our mother’s contributions. Our late mother, a local lifetime Queens resident, was part of the 6888 and the December 20 (film) on NETFLIX, The Six Triple Eight, produced by Tyler Perry, starring Kerry Washington’.*

In a later conversation, after I saw the Netflix film, Afi spoke to me of her mother, **Madeleine A. Coleman (Roach)**, who was



Madeleine A. Coleman

recruited as a stenographer with the 6888th. “So much was actual, as my mother once told us kids. I found my mother’s name on the credit scroll at the end. Our mother’s picture is on display, and other memorabilia, too, in a museum for perpetuity in Miami dedicated to women in WWII. I am still reading the letters she [Corporal] and my dad [Master Sgt. John Roach] wrote almost daily to each other. They both knew each other here first and served in the European Theatre and married in France.”

A family narrative written by Afi and her sister Catherine was graciously sent to me with the text: *‘Madeleine followed her heart entering the WAAC (later WAC) and was stationed in Camp Sibert, AL, and John was in Camp Wolters, TX. Much about their experiences is documented in artifacts covering the good, the bad and the ugly. The good was their inseparable bond. The bad was the devastation of war and keeping them apart despite their enduring commitment. The ugly was the face of ruthless and bitter racism on their own home front whose flag they held precious.’*

The bad and the ugly is a narrative whose surface was barely scratched in this brief notebook entry. But along with that part of the narrative, the good is the story of the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion’s success and service to country and is one that should not only be celebrated in a film, but always remembered in our history books. Visit www.womenofthe6888th.org to learn more. ■

JULIA LAURIA-BLUM, Editor-in-Chief
jlum@metroairportnews.com



Turn Waiting Time into Engaging Moments Enhance Customer Experience with Premium Print and Digital Content

Make waiting enjoyable with fast and convenient access to over 1,600 national and international newspapers and magazines in 40 languages, available on any device. No subscriptions or apps needed – just seamless integration with your IT infrastructure in your respective corporate design. Elevate your customer service effortlessly.

Contact us to learn more.

Gabrielle Sarmiento
 The Traveling Press, LLC
 Queens, NY 11355
 Phone: 718-353-5416
 Email: gabrielle.s@thetravelingpress.com
www.thetravelingpress.com
www.media-carrier.com



Sustainability Is At the Forefront of Everything We Do



*Proudly serving
New York and the
Tri-State area for
more than 20 years*



Get the Royal Advantage!

Compactor & Container Service
Demolitions & Clean Out
Document Shredding • Composting & More!

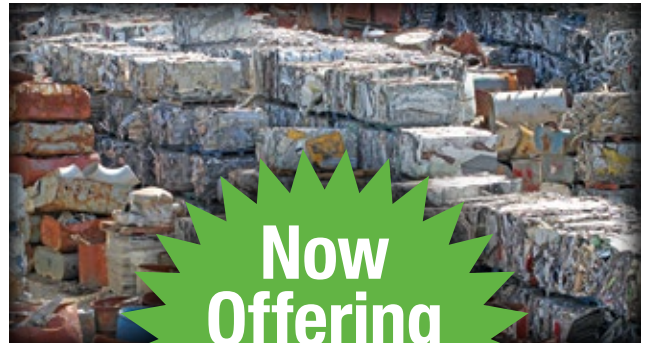
SINGLE STREAM MATERIAL RECYCLING

With the use of our Single Stream Material Recycling Facility, Royal helps to increase waste diversion rates up to 90%.

ROYAL
Waste Services, Inc.

(718) 526-2623

Call today for more information,
or to speak with a Royal Waste
Green Team Sustainable Consultant



**Now
Offering
Metal Recycling
With Rebates**

www.royalwaste.com

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

Gameway at JFK

Bringing the First-ever, News-level Airport Gaming Experience to NYC



Gameway is the world's first premium video game lounge located in airports. At Gameway, passengers can enjoy a first-class video game experience, allowing time to fly by before boarding their flight.

In December 2024, Gameway, the award-winning pioneers of airport gaming lounges, celebrated the official unveiling of their new location at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Terminal 8. This marks Gameway's first location in the New York City area, bringing the total number of airport lounges to seven nationwide.

Gameway, co-founded by **Emma Walbridge**, is a brand with a mission to help

transform the airport experience and make air travel more fun. The Gameway Lounge at JFK's T8 is part of the \$125 million investment in Terminal 8 by Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and American Airlines.

Gameway's newest state-of-the-art gaming lounge at JFK International offers an unparalleled entertainment experience for travelers of all ages. This sleek and modern entertainment concession boasts an expanded range of luxury console and PC gaming stations, industry-leading amenities, and services that take the airport

experience to the next level. The lounge features nine individual gaming stations equipped with PlayStation or Xbox consoles pre-loaded with the latest games. Each station includes a customized lounge chair, a 43" 4K TV, premium gaming headphones, charging ports for your devices, and ample space for your luggage.

There are also 8 high-performance gaming PCs paired with exclusive Corbeau gaming chairs to enhance your gaming experience. For a nostalgic experience, the retro game bar offers classic consoles and games where guests can enjoy a selection of craft beers.

Gameway's success has been recognized and celebrated by the aviation industry. In 2024, this woman-owned concept was awarded the 'Pioneer of the Year' award by *Airport Dimensions*, the "Champions of Diversity" award by SOAR at DFW, and in 2023, Gameway was voted the "Best New Passenger Service" by ACI-NA and "Best Passenger Service" by AXN.

Gameway has seven current airport locations and expansion plans, with several more locations set to open in 2025, including a second location at JFK International Airport, Terminal 5, and new locations at Chicago Midway, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, and two in Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

Open daily from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm, the new Gameway Lounge is located near Gate 8 at JFK Airport's Terminal 8. ■



GAMEWAY

Gameway

John F. Kennedy International Airport
Terminal 8

Tel: (877) 996-3223

www.gameway.gg

AIRPORT INTEL

SF Airlines Awards Annual ‘Outstanding Partnership Award’ to Worldwide Flight Services

China-based cargo airline, SF Airlines, has awarded its annual ‘Outstanding Partnership Award’ to Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a SATS company, at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and John F Kennedy Airport (JFK) for the quality and reliability of its freighter ramp handling and warehouse services.

The award also acknowledges the safety and security compliance delivered by the WFS team in LAX and JFK as well as the strong communication between SF Airlines and WFS personnel.

WFS won its first contract with SF Airlines in North America in 2018 for cargo handling at New York JFK and later added Los Angeles to its working partnership. SATS and WFS also provide cargo handling services for the cargo airline in Singapore, Bangkok, Frankfurt, and Liege.

“WFS is honored to have received this award and to be supporting SF Airlines’



Overseas Strategy to expand its international logistics capabilities through the reliability and safety of our operations. SF Airlines is successfully leveraging strategic partnerships like the one with SATS and WFS to strengthen its network reach, freight capacity, and service capabilities in key global markets,” said José Canales,

SVP, Commercial & Business Development, Americas at WFS.

In July 2024, SATS, the world’s largest provider of air cargo handling services and Asia’s pre-eminent provider of food solutions, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SF Group, the leading express delivery and logistics service provider in China and globally, to expand strategic collaboration and supply chain optimization into a global footprint. This included the official opening in October 2024, of a new airside logistics centre for SF Express Singapore located at the SATS Core A warehouse in Changi Airfreight Centre. The new facility optimizes export and import operations, resulting in improved flexibility and faster turnaround times for customers. The development facilitates the enhancement of SF Express Singapore’s expansion across Southeast Asia and globally. ■

PANYNJ and JMP Announce Exterior Medallion Commission for the New Terminal 6 at JFK Airport

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and JFK Millennium Partners (JMP), the company selected to build and operate the highly anticipated \$4.2 billion Terminal 6 (T6) at John F. Kennedy International Airport, set to open to passengers in 2026, recently announced that an additional public art commission has been awarded.



Jane Dickson

Artist **Jane Dickson** has been selected to create a bronze medallion for the arrivals plaza, where arriving passengers will first set foot in New York City as they depart the terminal. The art program is led by Public Art Fund, the independent nonprofit organization dedicated to art in public spaces.

Dickson, who lives and works in New York City, joins 18 featured artists (including 10 others from New York) who will capture the spirit of the city with a diverse range of artworks seamlessly integrated into the terminal. The exterior medallion, located at the arrivals plaza, will welcome visitors and will be located near a terrace with greenery. The 14-foot-diameter circular medallion will be fabricated in durable cast bronze using low-relief casting techniques. Masterwork Plaques, known for their expertise in ground-based artwork, will collaborate with Dickson to translate her vision into bronze.

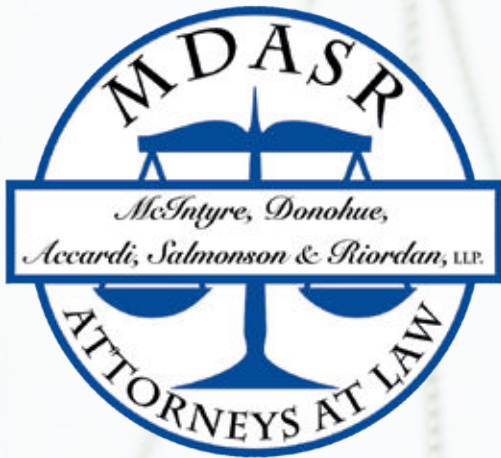
Dickson frequently makes New York City her subject and has pioneered the exhibition of digital public artworks in New York City. In 1982, she initiated the Public Art Fund series *Messages to the Public*, which displayed works by artists including Keith Haring, David Hammons, and Jenny Holzer on Times Square’s Spectacolor billboard.

“The art program at Terminal 6 captures the spirit of New York City as a global destination for art and culture,” said **Nicholas Baume**, artistic & executive director of Public Art Fund. “After experiencing the stunning works of art inside the building, arriving travelers will step outside to be greeted by Jane Dickson’s striking bronze medallion.”

The Terminal 6 art program supports the Port Authority’s vision to create a world-class passenger experience at JFK through inspirational public art, operational excellence, 21st-century technology, and world-class functionality. ■

THE LAW OFFICES OF MCINTYRE, DONOHUE, ACCARDI, SALMONSON, & RIORDAN, LLP

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS. SECURING YOUR FUTURE.



SPECIALIZING IN:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
3/4'S DISABILITY PENSION

HURT AT WORK?
CALL US TODAY!

866.557.7500

PROTECTING WORKERS THROUGHOUT NY STATE

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!



inquire@licomplaw.com



licomplaw.com



Behind the Scenes of a Compassion Flight

Kindness In Action Through Free Flights for Patients and Veterans

JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

Coping with a medical condition or serious illness can be an overwhelming experience for a patient, a loved one, or a caregiver. It becomes particularly formidable when an individual learns that essential medical care, trial, or treatment is located at a hospital or specialized medical center far from home. Adding to the challenges of logistics, are people who live in rural or isolated areas with limited travel options and those with limited financial resources.

Under these circumstances, charitable non-emergency air medical transport presents as a vital and compassionate support for patients and their families. By providing an efficient, prompt, and safe means of travel to necessary therapeutic care, medical air transport addresses logistical challenges and offers substantial emotional support that helps alleviate a patient's stress level and concerns associated with lengthy, uncomfortable automobile rides. It circumvents the complexities of navigating through a busy airport with the possible delays sometimes encountered with commercial air travel.

Charitable medical air transport provides transportation to people in need and allows patients and their families the ability to concentrate on medical care and treatment rather than travel logistics. It provides free transport for those who cannot afford or are physically unable to fly commercially. It offers compassionate assistance to patients and their loved ones and provides humanitarian aid to those in need. These charitable services rely on volunteer pilots who donate their time and their own aircraft to conduct the flights.

One of the most well-known patient air-lift programs in the United States is **PALS**

SkyHope (Patient Airlift Services). In its 15th year of operations, PALS SkyHope is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization located at Republic Airport (FRG) on Long Island that arranges free air transportation for individuals who need to travel for medical treatment, diagnosis, or follow-up care at out-of-reach locations, regardless of the patient's ability to pay. These flights occur in privately owned, general aviation aircraft rather than air ambulances. Thus, patients must be able to get into the airplane without a medical assistant or nurse and be well enough for the flight. It is also required that patients have waivers and releases from their physicians indicating that their condition allows them to fly safely.

Founded in 2010, Patient Airlift Services SkyHope (formerly solely named PALS) was founded by a small group of volunteer pilots who loved to fly and were compelled to start their own patient airlift service using their skills and resources to provide people with safe, free air transport to medical treatments. PALS began small, with 300 flights in its first year. Since its inception, that number has grown to 3,000 flights a year. In the course of 15 years, PALS has completed 34,000 free flights, assisting over 4,000 families with 6.5 million volunteer miles flown by 560 PALS SkyHope volunteer pilots. Aircraft used by PALS pilots are typically non-pressurized, single-engine, 4-6 seaters. Volunteer pilots bear the entire cost of each medical flight, including fuel, landing and ramp fees, and other related



Solomon had to face cancer at age 4 and needed treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering, NY. PALS was able to make the trip from Virginia to New York more manageable.

expenses. Patients are not responsible for any transportation costs outside of their own arrangements for local ground transport to departure and destination locations.

As a collaborative organization, PALS SkyHope provides aviation resources to children and adults in need or from every state along the East Coast, from Maine to Florida and all states east of the Mississippi River. As part of the **AirCare Alliance** (a non-profit public service organization representing a nationwide network of volunteer pilot groups, such as **Angel Flight**, **Mercy Flight** and others), PALS SkyHope and other organizations in the alliance may

refer to each other when flight requests are received outside of the geographical region they serve.

The **PALS for Patriots** program provides free air transportation for veterans, connecting them and their families to specialized medical treatment, adaptive sports, service dog organizations, and moral boosting opportunities that advance the healing process. By eliminating transportation as a barrier, veterans can access the services they need and deserve, including programs that support post-traumatic growth, group therapy, and caregiver retreats.

In partnership with MLB, PALS SkyHope receives tickets to baseball games throughout the summer and transports veterans and military personnel to stadiums such as Fenway and Citifield, where they are often brought onto the field and applauded for their service. The fact that a person with a private plane has chosen to fly them to a game, sometimes putting them up at a hotel or taking them out to dinner, is not only uplifting to veterans who feel isolated or depressed but restorative in mind, body, and spirit.

PALS SkyHope maintains a coordination center to connect people to pilots. Its staff is dedicated to providing every passenger with the best experience along their journey. Using specialized software, a patient's flight request is put into the

Continued On Page 12



Azran required treatment in a facility 12 hours away by car.

Continued From Page 11

organization's system. After a patient intake is completed, it goes out to the volunteer pilot community, who may then sign up to pilot a flight, depending on their availability and the airplane's accommodations, since some patients may need a specific type of aircraft if they are in a wheelchair or physically unable to climb onto a wing to enter the plane. If no pilots are available to answer a particular flight request, further calls are made to arrange logistics. Once an outgoing flight request is met, PALS arranges for the patient's transport home, which usually occurs on the same day. However, when a patient's discharge plans are unknown, the organization has a relationship with Ronald McDonald House (for pediatric patients and family escort), Hope Lodge, and others so that they have a place to stay until PALS can get a patient out the following day, or shortly thereafter.

A majority of the charitable patient air-lift services provided by PALS SkyHope are for adults and children requiring treatment for cancer or other serious illnesses and for people with rare diseases and conditions that require a specialist's care at a specialty facility, such as Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City and more. Children account for 30% of patients transported by air to these medical centers of excellence.



Army Captain Theresa Reer, finds strength and support from her new best friend, Oscar. Free veteran flights from PALS made sure the two got together.

Since safety is paramount and weight on any aircraft is a critical issue, the less weight, the better in filling a flight. In trying to accommodate family, PALS is empathetic to what people are going through, and they have a 'yes mentality' in providing air transport to family escorts. But their numbers are limited, dependent on the length of the flight, pilot availability and their aircraft's specifications and allowances. When poor weather conditions prevent a flight from happening and a patient must get to a necessary scheduled treatment or procedure, PALS SkyHope has a

relationship with several commercial airlines (Southwest, JetBlue, Cape Air) who donate vouchers to them for the patient to use when needed.

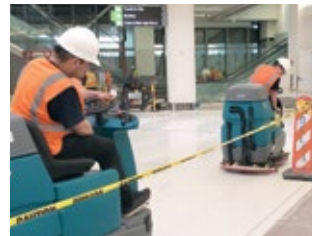
Volunteer pilots fly from everywhere within the region that PALS serves. Most flights do not depart from any one particular airport. In the New York metropolitan area, many pilots are based out of Long Island, and a few flights actually come into Republic Airport. As a whole, there are many flights into and out of New York State, and PALS serves a lot of New Yorkers in rural areas and those with little means.

Many of the volunteer pilots are based in Boston and the New England region, but there are not as many toward the middle of the country, such as western Pennsylvania and Ohio. In West Virginia, where medical facilities are sparse, fewer pilots are available to volunteer their time and use of aircraft. Therefore, the staff at PALS work diligently to identify locations in surrounding states that logistically make sense for pilots to pick up patients from and transport them to their treatments. Once these locations are identified, PALS reaches out to recruit and educate pilots about the need for their services. Additionally, some volunteer pilots act as PALS ambassadors who help spread the word in their local communities and engage other qualified pilots to volunteer.



A young patient, prior to his PALS SkyHope flight to medical care.

Continued On Page 14



Clean. Safe. Compliant.

Full-service cleaning and maintenance programs for airport and aviation facilities.

SIDA Badged with U.S. Customs Seals and PONYA plated vehicles at both JFK & LGA airports.

- PANYNJ Janitorial Maintenance Small Business Enterprise Certified (JMSBE)
- Pre, post, & during-construction cleaning
- Airport lounge detailing and fine cleaning
- Building and office cleaning
- Steam cleaning for all surfaces
- Carpet cleaning & restoration
- Interior and exterior window cleaning
- Building facade cleaning
- Stainless steel cleaning
- Pressure and power washing
- Interior and exterior painting
- General maintenance services
- SIDA badged AOA Janitorial Services for Airport Terminals, Offices, Warehouse, and Hangars
- Ramp, roadway, and warehouse mechanical sweeping
- Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Programs
- Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and management
- Airport marking painting and removal
- Emergency Spill response
- Bird-dropping cleaning, Bird control installations, including netting and spikes
- Bird strike clean-up
- Catch basin cleaning
- Emergency aircraft cleaning and decontamination
- Heavy-duty equipment and vehicle pressure washing



Aqueous Solutions is a Certified MWBE Woman-Owned Business Enterprise with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, State of New York, and New York City

24/7 Emergency Response Hotline: 1-800-294-4950



Located at John F. Kennedy International Airport
1-800-294-4950 • (718) 355-9080
 info@aqsolution.com • www.aqsolution.com

Continued From Page 12

Patient Stories

Over the years and through their many missions, the number of lives PALS SkyHope has impacted is innumerable. The dream of its founders continues through the many rewarding and touching stories of patients, past and present, such as the Virginia family whose child comes up to Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York for the treatment of Osteosarcoma or the Long Island family whose loved one has a rare disease that requires treatment in Pennsylvania, or the patient on a clinical trial that requires an infusion three times a week at a specialized facility that is far from home, or a person transported by PALS over 300 times to receive life-saving medical treatment.

Another of PALS SkyHope's inspiring stories is that of a seriously injured 'Operation Enduring Freedom' veteran, Retired Army Captain Theresa Reer. Theresa waited three years for a match with a service dog specifically trained to assist her in everyday mobility tasks and to provide her comfort. When a dog named Oscar finally came through for her via the Smithtown-based non-profit America's VetDogs, only a few days before she was set to fly to New York, Theresa's home state of Ohio was put on the list of states requiring a quarantine of 14 days before her planned arrival. Unable to quarantine for the two weeks before Theresa's training with Oscar began, if she couldn't get to New York from Ohio, Oscar



Quinlee has been flying with PALS to receive medical treatment since she was 11 months old.

would go to the next veteran on the list, and her long wait would again begin.

When PALS volunteer pilot and Board member **Terry Flood** (assigned to Theresa's return flight) heard that Theresa's training was being canceled, he felt compelled to do something to resolve the issue. After doing some research, Terry was able to assist Theresa in applying for a waiver to the COVID-19 travel quarantine requirement. Terry and Theresa were delighted when the waiver was granted; today, she and Oscar are inseparable. "Oscar will make a big difference in my life. As long as Oscar is by my side, I'm good," said Theresa.

Today, several of PALS SkyHope founders continue to fly for the organization. One of them is Joe Howley, who has served as President of the Board of Directors at PALS

SkyHope since 2014. Joe has been volunteer flying for over 20 years. As founding Chairman, he was instrumental in the origination of PALS, having flown more than 1,000 PALS passenger missions. He said, "There is no other volunteer pilot organization that can match our transparency, efficacy, and passion to help those in need. Our superb pilots and staff are second to none."

Eight full-time people staff PALS SkyHope, and there is a lot of coordination involved in every flight. Pilots want to fly, and patients need to go. Together, they make it happen, and the need is, and will always be there.

Funding for PALS SkyHope comes through private donations, individuals, foundations, and grants. ■



The logo for PALS SkyHope, featuring the word "SkyHope" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Above the "y" in "Sky" is a small blue airplane icon. To the right of "SkyHope" is the word "PALS" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, with a small blue airplane icon above the "A".

More information about PALS SkyHope, volunteering, their partnerships, donating to and fund-raising events can be found online at www.skyhope.org or by phone at 888-818-1231 or (631) 649-PALS (7257).



OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR

Duty Manager and Supervisor
Office Agents • Warehouse Agents • Tractor Trailer Drivers

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS

Must be at least 18 years old • Must be able to lift 70 lbs. on a regular basis (Warehouse)
Valid driver's license with excellent driving record

Must Pass 10 year background check • Must have authorization to work in the U.S.

Starting Salary \$19.00+ per hour for Warehouse and Office Agents

EMAIL RESUME TO:

CPILARINOS@AGI.AERO

For immediate consideration, please stop by our JFK Facility
Delta Cargo Building 21A Room 202 between the hours of 10:00am & 1:00pm

Please bring your resume and ALL government I.D's.

Alliance Ground International provides airline cargo handling services to 55 airlines at thirteen airports: Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Kansas City, LaGuardia, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York JFK, Orlando, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. Warehouse and ramp operations schedules are constantly adjusted to flight operations. With partners such as Cargo Force and The Cargo Security Company; Alliance Ground International can be your "one-stop-source" for all of your cargo handling needs. The culmination of years of experience with its industry partners, Alliance Ground International offers a vast range of services: Cargo Handling, Ground Handling, Mail Handling, Passenger, and Security.

WWW.AGI.AERO

More Than Just an Airport

Enhancing Airport Staff Satisfaction and Efficiency

Airports are more than transit points; they are vital centers of workforce development, essential for both employment and economic stability. While passengers often perceive airports as mere places to rush through, the right blend of workforce training, development, and staff satisfaction can transform airports into efficient and satisfying workplaces for operational staff. Ensuring a pleasant working environment is crucial for creating a seamless travel experience for passengers.

Workforce Training and Development

Operational staff at airports face unique challenges, such as managing security protocols and overseeing technical operations. Comprehensive training programs are essential to ensure personnel are adequately prepared for these responsibilities. Ongoing training enables employees to stay informed about the latest technologies and best practices, which is critical for maintaining safety compliance and operational efficiency.

Enhancing both the personal attributes, such as mentorship or arts development and the professional technical skills of airport operational staff provides substantial benefits to airports. Incorporating employees' unique talents, including arts and music, into airport operations or design requires meticulous planning to enrich the passenger experience without causing disruptions. This integration has the potential to unlock economic opportunities and offer staff unique experiences that are not typically available elsewhere.

The New York State Assembly Bill 2025-A938 emphasizes the importance of continuous training for airport staff, authorizing municipal and authority-owned or operated airports to hire and promote employees on a permanent basis. This



bill underscores the significance of investing in training programs that provide employees with opportunities for professional growth and personal development.

High turnover rates among customer service and security roles can disrupt service quality and operational continuity. Effective retention strategies, including employee engagement initiatives, career development opportunities, and flexible working arrangements, are essential. Fair compensation across all roles, particularly for lower-paid positions, is crucial for workforce stability. Competitive wages and comprehensive benefits packages improve job satisfaction and reduce turnover rates.

Enhancing Staff Satisfaction

Diversity and inclusion within the airport workforce can enhance problem-solving, innovation, and overall employee satisfaction. Training programs on cultural competency and equal opportunity policies

can create a harmonious and supportive work environment. Promoting health and wellness initiatives, including mental health support, ensures that employees are well cared for. Healthy employees are more productive and contribute to a positive workplace culture.

To improve staff satisfaction, airports should invest in advanced technologies to streamline operations and reduce manual tasks. This enables employees to concentrate on more critical functions, which can enhance their sense of purpose and job satisfaction. For instance, implementing advanced baggage handling systems can minimize the need for manual labor, allowing staff to focus on customer service and other important duties such as personal and professional development.

Creating a positive work environment is equally important. Recognizing employee achievements, offering career development

Continued On Page 18



**ELEVATING JOURNEYS,
INSPIRED BY OUR HISTORY.
ONE OBJECTIVE. YOURS.**



MINORITY & VETERAN OWNED

**GROUND HANDLING • ANCILLARY SERVICES
PASSENGER SERVICES • CARGO & MAIL HANDLING
GSE MAINTENANCE • SNOW REMOVAL & DE-ICING SOLUTIONS**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
VISIT US AT ASAK.AERO**



AIRPORT INTEL

Continued From Page 16

opportunities, and implementing flexible working arrangements can significantly boost morale and retention. By prioritizing workforce development and fair labor practices, airports can ensure a better working environment for their employees.

City and State-Level Policies

New York City and State have implemented several policies that impact airport operations and workforce dynamics. New York State's minimum wage laws ensure fair compensation for workers, especially in lower-wage roles like custodians and passenger service agents. This helps reduce turnover and improve job satisfaction.

NYC's Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law allows workers to take paid time off for health-related issues, reducing absenteeism and promoting a healthier workforce. State-funded programs, like those from the Empire State Development Corporation, enhance skills and employability through training initiatives. New York State's stringent environmental policies also influence airport operations, requiring additional training and compliance efforts, contributing to a greener aviation industry.

Economic Contributions

New York City's airports contribute billions of dollars to the regional economy. They support tourism, trade, and commerce, benefiting industries like hospitality and logistics. Airports generate substantial indirect and induced economic impacts by creating jobs and stimulating spending in surrounding communities.

The economic impact of NYC airports extends beyond their role as travel hubs. They are crucial for job creation, economic stimulation, and community support. Addressing workforce challenges and promoting efficiency through targeted strategies is essential for sustaining their contributions to the regional economy.

By focusing on workforce development, training, and staff satisfaction, NYC airports can enhance operational efficiency and improve working conditions. Investing in their workforce ensures that airports remain vibrant and effective centers of transportation. As air travel continues to grow, reimagining airports as supportive and efficient workplaces for operational staff can create a more enjoyable and seamless travel experience for all.

In conclusion, airports in New York City serve as more than mere transit points. By

emphasizing the satisfaction and development of their operational staff and integrating staff talents or personal attributes into airport functions, such as art installations by staff members, these airports can sustain their pivotal role in the regional economy while fostering an improved working environment for employees. This focus on workforce dynamics and efficiency will ultimately result in a more positive and memorable experience for both passengers and staff. ■



EMMANUEL AKINBOBOLA

is currently pursuing a career in aviation as a pilot at the Academy of Aviation's career pilot program in New York. Emmanuel holds a Master of Public Administration from

Columbia University and has an extensive background working on policy-related matters in the private, public, and international governmental organization (IGO) sectors. His professional journey has taken him to the United Nations and the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), and the World Bank Group, working in several countries, including Tajikistan and Ukraine. Additionally, Emmanuel can communicate in multiple languages, including Yoruba, French, English, and Mandarin.

LGA Terminal B Honors Latest B-Celebrated Recipients

LaGuardia Gateway Partners (LGP), the manager and developer of LaGuardia Terminal B, commemorated its newest honorees of B-Celebrated – the recently launched terminal-wide recognition program to honor Terminal B community members.

At the quarterly B-Celebrated award ceremony, LGP honored Frank Lopez, Guest Experience Ambassador, ABM Industries, and Gerard Manno, Bag Room Chief, American Airlines. Their colleagues nominated both of them for going above and beyond in delivering an exceptional experience at LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B.

(L.-R.): Frank Lopez, Guest Experience Ambassador, ABM Industries, and Gerard Manno, Bag Room Chief, American Airlines.





Flexible Pathways to an Associate, Bachelor's or Master's Degree

For Employees at Port Authority EWR & JFK Airports

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER!

FDU offers affordable and flexible programs to achieve your professional goals — while working full-time!

- Associate & Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs
- Master of Public Administration
- Certificate Programs & More!

Is your goal a Master of Public Administration (MPA)?

FDU's respected Master of Public Administration focuses on advancing your managerial and leadership skills. There's even an option to begin MPA studies while completing your bachelor's degree.

- Online or in-person class options to fit your lifestyle
- Affordable tuition (ask your employer about tuition reimbursement)
- Transfer of eligible credits towards degree completion and master's
- MPA specializations include Global Transportation Management

To Learn More

EMAIL
mpa@fdu.edu

VISIT
fdu.edu/mpa



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

FDU is a proud participant in the Yellow Ribbon program.



AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

HR COORDINATOR AT JFK

The HR Coordinator provides assistance with and facilitates HR support tasks and activities within the branch.

HMSHost

Job No.: 000237

Office & Administrative Support

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

SOHO BISTRO - COCKTAIL SERVER

The Cocktail Server is responsible for taking food and beverage orders; entering orders; serving food and beverages for guests; coordinating with the kitchen to ensure timely service.

Soho Bistro

Job No.: 000236

Food Service & Hospitality

Full-timePart-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

STARBUCKS – SHIFT MANAGER I

The Manager I (MGRI) position is to assist Branch management in tactically executing QSR or similar restaurant management operations.

Starbucks

Job No.: 000235

Food Service & Hospitality

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR

The Account Director plays a key role in leading efforts to achieve organic growth goals. Account Directors will also focus on developing and implementing strategies for the retention of existing business by performing the following duties personally or through subordinate managers.

SBM Management Services

Job No.: 000226

Sales, Retail, & Customer Support

Full-time

New York, NY 11430

COMMERCIAL HANDYMAN WITH CDL LICENSE

Street sweeper driver with experience as a maintenance person or in a similar role.

Aqueous Solutions

Job No.: 000231

Janitorial & Facility Services

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

STARBUCKS BARISTA AT TERMINAL 5

The Barista creates a great experience for our customers by providing quality beverages and products, quick service and providing a fun and memorable experience for our guests.

Starbucks

Job No.: 000234

Food Service & Hospitality

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

SOHO BISTRO - SHIFT MANAGER II

The purpose of the Manager II (MGRII) position is to assist Branch management in tactically executing complex QSR or Casual Dine or similar restaurant management operations.

Soho Bistro

Job No.: 000233

Food Service & Hospitality

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

EXECUTIVE CHEF

The Executive Chef is responsible for all culinary operations of multiple restaurants with difficult to complex operations.

HMSHost

Job No.: 000232

Food Service & Hospitality

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY

We are looking for a driven Director of Sustainability that will develop, direct, manage, and implement comprehensive strategic policies for the New Terminal One in environmental compliance with government and stakeholder requirements and commitments.

The New Terminal One

Job No.: 000230

Office & Administrative Support

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (GERMAN SPEAKERS ONLY)

Join the United Inflight team: Be part of our shared purpose - Connecting people, Uniting the world.

United Airlines

Job No.: 000228

Flight Operations

Full-time

Newark Liberty
International Airport, NJ

SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER - MIT

The Sr Operations Manager will assist with coordinating and directing operations necessary to carry out contractual responsibilities between SBM and customers including any necessary planning, supervision, budgeting, and other high level managerial responsibilities.

SBM Management Services

Job No.: 000227

Janitorial & Facility Services

Full-time

Queens, NY 11370

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN (JFK)

The Aircraft Maintenance Technician (AMT) is responsible for maintenance and repairs to keep aircraft working safely and efficiently.

Endeavor Air

Job No.: 000225

Aircraft Maintenance

Full-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN - BUILDING ENGINEER

When you join us, you're joining a global team of 100,000+ connected by a shared passion with a wide spectrum of experience to lead the way forward.

United Airlines

Job No.: 000229

Janitorial & Facility Services *Full-time*

Newark Liberty
International Airport, NY

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Endeavor Air Flight Attendants provide a safe and memorable on-board experience for every customer, every day, on every flight.

Endeavor Air

Job No.: 000224

Passenger Services *Full-time*

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

JFK PASSENGER SERVICE SUPERVISOR - AEROMEXICO

This is a customer-facing role, providing first-class customer service to everyone. You are friendly, outgoing, and love to make people happy daily!

Unifi Aviation Services

Job No.: 000207

Passenger Services *Full-time*

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER

Our unarmed security officers are in the forefront of homeland security, safeguarding infrastructure and ensuring seamless and secure operations in many of the largest and busiest airports in the country.

Global Elite Group

Job No.: 000214

Security

Full-time/Part-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

REGIONAL AIRPORT SERVICES MANAGER

The role is responsible for ensuring that the Airport and other airport operations under your jurisdiction run smoothly, cost-effectively, and in accordance with safety and security requirements.

Qatar Airways Group

Job No.: 000217

Airport & Terminal Operations *Full-time*

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

TECHNICAL SUPPORT CONTROLLER

The Technical Support Controller monitors fleet performance daily and provides recommendations for preventative maintenance, ongoing troubleshooting, and/or aircraft recovery.

JetBlue

Job No.: 000222

Flight Operations *Full-time*

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

SENIOR ANALYST CREW PAIRING OPTIMIZATION

The Senior Analyst will perform data analysis, data quality assurance, and ad hoc projects that enable system robustness and achievable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

JetBlue

Job No.: 000220

Flight Operations *Full-time*

Long Island City, NY 11101

AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER (JFK)

Our unarmed security officers are in the forefront of homeland security, safeguarding infrastructure and ensuring seamless and secure operations in many of the largest and busiest airports in the country.

Global Elite Group

Job No.: 000214

Security

Full-time/Part-time

John F. Kennedy
International Airport, NY

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (GREEK SPEAKERS ONLY)

There has never been a more exciting time to join United Airlines! We are proud to be the largest airline in the history of aviation and an industry leader in employee engagement, customer service and experience, environmental sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

United Airlines

Job No.: 000206

Flight Operations *Full-time*

Newark Liberty
International Airport, NJ

GROUND SERVICE EQUIPMENT UTILITY SPECIALIST

The GSE Utility Specialist plays a very important role in providing quality service to our internal customers and performs work in accordance with guidelines established in the collective bargaining agreement.

United Airlines

Job No.: 000205

Ground Handling *Full-time*

Newark Liberty
International Airport, NJ

Visit our website to apply for these featured airport employment opportunities and search for additional jobs at the New York area airports. Register today to allow airport and aviation employers to match your skills with available positions. www.airportworker.com



Altair Airlines: The Brightest Star

Airline Stars that Burn Brightly Do Not Necessarily Burn for Long

BY ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL
robertw@metroairportnews.com

For a carrier whose identity was reflected by its “brightest star” name, it burned out after only a decade and a half, but during that time, it transitioned from a turboprop commuter to an all-jet regional, experiencing growing pains, searching for a niche, reinventing itself, and hopelessly combating companies that could be considered the size of constellations.

Commuter Carrier Origins

Taking its name from “Altairus,” the brightest star in the constellation Aquila, it adopted a blue eagle logo to adorn the vertical tails of its aircraft to further reflect the “eagle” meaning of Aquila itself.

Despite its shine, it began as less than a flicker—a fledgling commuter carrier given wings in July of 1966 for the purpose of connecting smaller cities separated by short distances, initially doing so that December with a Philadelphia-Albany link. Its aircraft, the Beechcraft B80 Queen Airliner, straddled the line between business and passenger types.

Initially designated Queen Air 65 and



developed as a commercial version of the US Army’s U-8F Seminole utility transport, it featured a low-wing, twin-piston engine, retractable-undercarriage configuration and first flew on August 28, 1958.

Powered by two 380-hp, six-cylinder, horizontally-opposed, air-cooled Lycoming engines and sporting a 50.3-foot span, it accommodated between seven and nine passengers.

By the summer of 1969, northeast expansion saw Altair touch down in 19 destinations in six states and the District of Columbia—namely, Pennsylvania (Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Reading, Scranton, Williamsport, and Wilkes-Barre), New York (Albany, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, and White Plains), New Jersey (Camden),

Maryland (Baltimore), Delaware (Wilmington), Virginia (Richmond), and Washington, D. C. Its highest frequencies were those between its Philadelphia flight base and both Allentown and Harrisburg. It advertised, “Fly the early birds.”

In order to cater to increased demand, it acquired larger aircraft, particularly the 15-passenger Beechcraft 99.

Resembling, in overall configuration, a larger B80 Queen Airliner, which itself had demonstrated the need for a higher-capacity commuter type, it was powered by two nacelle-encased, Pratt & Whitney PT6A turboprops that drove three-bladed, fully-feathering, reversible-pitch, constant-speed Hartzell propellers. The pods themselves stretched from ahead of the cockpit to the wing trailing edge. Entry was through an aft, left, downward-opening, airstair door, and external views were through square windows and a single rear circular one on either side.

At the dawn of the next decade, additional cities were added to Altair’s route system, such as Hartford, Islip, and Bedford, and Philadelphia began to be developed into a bonafide hub. Further seeking to increase the capacity of its aircraft, it acquired still-larger Nord 262s from Denmark-based Cimber Air in 1975.

Powered by two 1,080-hp Bastan VIB2 turboprops, the French design initially flew in prototype form on December 24, 1962. The first production example, featuring a dorsal fin for increased vertical axis stability, took to the sky two years later, on July 8, 1964, and was awarded its French type certification eight days later.

Featuring its own self-contained airstair door and elliptical passenger windows, it accommodated 26 in a three-abreast configuration with an offset aisle- or 11 more

Continued On Page 25



Altair Airlines Nord 262

2025 CHEFS OF THE YEAR



Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo, EdD
President
Vaughn College



Uzoamaka N. Okoye
Chief of Staff
The New Terminal One

CLAIRE SHULMAN "SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY" AWARD



Rachel Kellner
Owner
Aigner Chocolates



QUEENS CENTERS FOR PROGRESS

29TH ANNUAL

Evening of Fine Food

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 25, 2025 / 6:30PM TO 9:00 PM

WHERE EVERY LOCAL BITE TELLS A STORY.
COME AND SAVOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

TERRACE ON THE PARK / 52-11 11TH STREET / CORONA, NY 11368

Queens Centers for Progress' Evening of Fine Food is a food & drink event showcasing Queens top restaurants and drink purveyors and benefits children & adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

THIS YEAR'S PARTICIPATING VENDORS INCLUDE:

- *10-63 MEAL LLC * AIGNER CHOCOLATES * ALTHEA'S TROPICAL DELIGHTS *
- * ANGIE'S DELIGHTFUL BITES * AUSTIN'S ALE HOUSE * BEVO'S KITCHEN *
- * BOURBON STREET * EL BUHO MEZCAL * HAVANA CENTRAL *
- * IL BACCO NY * KAIETEUR RESTAURANT * KHALIL BIRYANI HOUSE *
- * MADEFRESH ORGANIC * MARBELLA RESTAURANT & CATERING *
- * MAX BRATWURST UND BIER * MAYAHUEL RESTAURANT & BAR *
- * MS SAUCE PLATES CULINARY HORIZON * MUMSKITCHENS NYC *
- * NEIR'S TAVERN * ONE STATION PLAZA *
- * RINCON SALVADORENO RESTAURANT * RUDY'S BAKERY & CAFÉ *
- * SASSY SWEET VEGAN TREATS * SPECIAL SWEETS *
- * THE WINE ROOM OF FOREST HILLS * TRATTORIA 35 *
- ... AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

VERONICA TSANG

- * BDO * GERALD J. CALIENDO, ARCHITECTS *
- * HOLT CONSTRUCTION * LONG ISLAND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS GROUP *
- * MASPETH FEDERAL SAVINGS * PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ *
- * QPTV * QUEENS COLLEGE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT *
- * RESORTS WORLD NYC * TD BANK * THE NEW TERMINAL ONE *
- * TOTALCARERX * TROUTMAN PEPPER LOCKE *



Scan QR Code or Visit Link to
Reserve Tickets & to See Full List of
Participating Restaurants:
www.tinyurl.com/25QCPFineFood



YOUR JFK TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER

PROVIDING SAFE & RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

— SINCE 1995 —



OUR SERVICES

- Airports
- Charter/Groups
- Shuttles
- Flight Crew Shuttles
- Sporting Events
- Distressed Passengers



NANCY VARGAS
Chief Executive Officer
nancy@dh2limo.com



MIKE VARGAS
Chief Operating Officer & Founder
mike@dh2limo.com

79 North Boundary Road, Building 79 JFK, Suite 205, Jamaica, NY 11430

(718) 928 9966 www.DH2Limo.com DH2Limo DH2Transportation DH2Transportation

Continued From Page 22

than its Beechcraft 99s.

The coveted goal of any foreign aircraft manufacturer was penetration of the U.S. market and Nord Aviation succeeded in doing so when Lake Central Airlines ordered a dozen 262s and inaugurated the first into service in May of 1965. Always in search of purpose and profit, Altair often dropped destinations like hot potatoes.

By 1979, with Philadelphia now firmly established as its hub, it flew to Newark, White Plains, Islip, Binghamton, and Elmira in New York; Wilkes-Barre, Allentown, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania over and above its home base; Wilmington in Delaware; and Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Raleigh-Durham, Charlotte, and Myrtle Beach in the south.

On the cover of its July 15, 1979 system timetable, it stated, "Announcing the Philadelphia-Allentown Shuttle, Monday through Friday, connecting Allentown with every major city in the USA and Europe," although this claim could only be fulfilled with other carriers for final-destination travel.

Regional Jet Era

Although deregulation facilitated unrestricted expansion for Altair and all other US airlines alike, its acquisition of six factory-fresh Fokker F.28-4000 Fellowships beginning in August of 1980 enabled it to entirely restructure itself and portray a "larger carrier" image by offering greater speed, range, and comfort.

Having assessed the regional market with its turboprop F.27 Friendship, Fokker, a name synonymous with aircraft such as the Dr.1 triplane during World War I and the early F.VIIA/3m trimotor airliner, announced the turbojet F.28 Fellowship as both a higher-speed complement to and successor of it at the 1962 Hanover air Show. Intended for low-capacity, short-range routes, which served limited-facility, sometimes unprepared fields that received no previous jet operations, it became the world's second purposefully-designed regional jet after the Yakovlev Yak-40, but accommodated two to three times as many passengers in a significantly wider fuselage.

"The F.28 twin-turboprop airliner is designed to serve the short- to medium-haul



Fokker F.28

sector of the commercial aviation market," according to the Fokker F28 Technical Data publication (Fokker-VFW International, p. 1). "Within that area, it serves a dual purpose. It brings jet speed and comfort to regions which previously have known only turboprop or piston-engine equipment. And it offers the advantage of moderate capacity to carriers operating domestic, regional, and charter services mostly from well-equipped airports."

Powered by two aft-mounted Rolls Royce RB.163 Mk 555 Spey Junior turboprops, it featured a 16-degree swept-back wing, a T-tail, and a unique pedal airbrake, which facilitated steep, controlled descent profiles without the need for power changes.

Accommodating 74 five-abreast passengers in the -4000 series Altair purchased, it offered full-size jet-equivalent speed and far greater range than its turboprops had. It also signaled a completely restructured route system, stressing longer distances.

From Philadelphia, it flew to Boston, Buffalo, and Rochester in the north, and Norfolk, Greensboro, Raleigh-Durham, Charleston, Savannah, Birmingham, and Memphis in the south. More importantly, however, was its Florida reach, enabling it to tap into tourist traffic for the first time and connect the city of brotherly love with Jacksonville, Tampa, and Sarasota. Its new slogan expressed its new-found freedom—namely, "Altair makes flying easy."

Its "Starjet service" on these relatively long-range routes--in compassion to the hops it initially made as a commuter carrier--was sterling: complementary aperitifs, spirits, wine, beer, soft drinks, and juices, and a chilled, multiple-course repast presented on flight attendant-offered trays, consisting of seasonal salads; jumbo shrimps with cocktail sauce; reubens of

corned beef, swiss cheese, sauerkraut, and thousand island dressing; a cheese board with gouda, bleu, swiss, and cheddar accompanied by crackers; a fresh fruit tray of strawberries, red grapes, orange sections, and pineapple slices; a selection of liqueurs; and coffee or tea.

Anticipating still-greater demand as it transformed itself into more of a major airline, it acquired three larger, longer-range McDonnell-Douglas DC-9-30s from Air Canada.

Darkened Star

While it ultimately achieved its brightest-star image and service, its dwindling finances reflected its undercapitalization, overexpansion, battle with the USAir and Eastern "big boys" at their highly established Philadelphia hubs, and inability to meet its expenses, particularly its more than \$1 million fuel debt to Gulf Oil Corporation.

Like the plug pulled on a lamp, its light abruptly darkened when it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on November 9, 1982 and ceased operations, leaving its now nine-strong F.28 and DC-9 fleet still and silent at Philadelphia International Airport, no longer able to reach for the stars. ■



ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL

spent thirty years working at JFK International and LaGuardia airports with the likes of Capitol Air, Midway Airlines, Triangle Aviation Services, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Austrian Airlines, and Lufthansa in Ground Operations and Management. He has created and taught aviation programs on both the airline and university level and is an aviation author.

Farewell to a Hero: The Legacy of Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart, Jr.

On February 1, 2025, the world lost a true American hero. Lieutenant Colonel Harry T. Stewart Jr., one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen and a decorated World War II fighter pilot, passed away at 100 years of age. His remarkable journey from a young man who dreamed of flying, to a trailblazer who broke racial barriers, leaves a legacy of courage, perseverance, and inspiration.

Born on July 4, 1924, in Newport News, Virginia, Stewart's life was marked by resilience and determination. Growing up in New York, he was fascinated by aviation and dreamed of becoming a pilot. However, as an African American in a segregated America, the path to the cockpit was far from easy.

That changed with the establishment of the Tuskegee Airmen program, an initiative to train Black pilots for the U.S. Army Air Corps. In 1943, at 19, Stewart enlisted and trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. By June 1944, he had earned his wings and was assigned to the legendary 332nd Fighter Group, also known as the Red Tails.

Flying P-51 Mustangs adorned with distinctive red tails, Stewart and his fellow airmen escorted bombers over Nazi-occupied Europe. Their mission was critical; protect the bombers from enemy fighters and prove that Black pilots were just as capable as their white counterparts.

Stewart flew 43 combat missions during World War II. One of his most extraordinary feats occurred on April 1, 1945, when he downed three German aircraft in a single mission; a rare achievement that earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Despite their success, the Tuskegee Airmen faced racism both abroad and at home. However, their outstanding record in battle helped pave the way for the desegregation of the U.S. military in 1948, a landmark moment in American history.



Life After War

After the war, Stewart continued his military career but faced limited opportunities due to racial discrimination. He remained in the Air Force Reserve, eventually retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Determined to continue soaring, Stewart earned a degree in mechanical engineering and embarked on a successful civilian career in aviation and engineering. Though he left the military, he never stopped advocating for the recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen and their contributions.

A Lasting Legacy

In his later years, Stewart co-authored the book, *Soaring to Glory: A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of World War II*, detailing his experiences and the obstacles he overcame. He was inducted into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor, received numerous accolades, and inspired generations of young aviators.

Even in his 90s and beyond, Stewart remained active in sharing his story, ensuring that the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen would not be forgotten. In 2024, he celebrated his 100th birthday, a milestone that

brought national recognition and tributes from across the country.

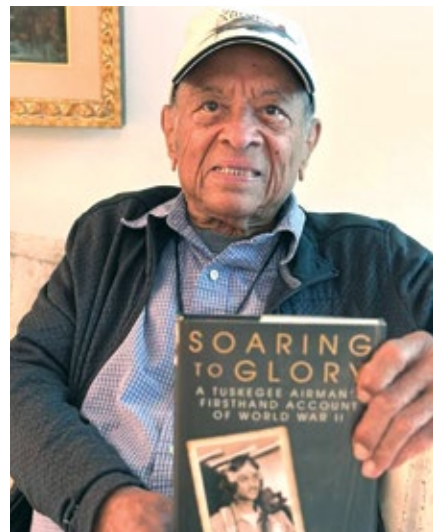
The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen is a vital part of American history. Their sacrifices and triumphs laid the foundation for a more inclusive and diverse military. Their story is one of perseverance, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to duty.

We are grateful that the United States Air Force continues to honor the unmatched legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen in its training, ensuring that future generations of airmen understand the sacrifices and achievements of those who came before them.

We also extend our deepest appreciation to the men and women of the armed forces who have served and continue to serve, making incredible sacrifices to protect the United States of America.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable man, we celebrate his life and the doors he opened for future generations. His story reminds us that courage, determination, and belief in one's dreams can overcome even the most formidable obstacles.

Fly high, Colonel Stewart. Your legacy will never fade. **TANYA AUSTIN**





MILES Petroleum Co. Inc.

We Keep Things Moving!

AVIATION / FLEET / INDUSTRIAL LUBRICANTS

**Free Delivery • Competitive Prices
Free Oil Analysis On Fuel Tanks & Lubricants**



ANGELA STERN
astern.mileswbe@gmail.com
Tel: (631) 767-8448

ED SULLIVAN
esullivan.mileswbe@gmail.com
Tel: (631) 767-8449

WE ENSURE YOUR CONTRACTURAL COMPLIANCE NEEDS*

Minority & Women Owned Certifications:

WBENC • ACDBE & DBE • Port Authority of NY & NJ • New York State • Nassau & Suffolk Counties



Empire State
Development



THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

* At the Port Authority of NY & NJ, we believe that our operations should reflect the diversity of our community. Because of this diversity, we have enacted a goal to award 20 percent of contracts to Minority-owned businesses, and 10 percent of contracts to women-owned businesses. We encourage each of our partners to also adopt these goals.

**20% participation goal with certified Minority-owned business enterprises (MBE)
10% participation goal with certified Woman-owned business enterprises (WBE)**

www.MilesOil.com

NON-REV TRAVELER

Transatlantic Voyage to Southampton, England

BY MAUREEN KATZ
mkatz@metroairportnews.com

We began our voyage from the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal located in Red Hook, Brooklyn. We took the Long Island Railroad from New Hyde Park to the Barclays Center and took a two-mile Uber ride to the terminal to avoid massive traffic in New York City. The ship that we sailed on was the Cunard Queen Mary Two.

The ship began sailing at 5:00 p.m. on a clear and cold day with a beautiful sunset. The spectacular views included the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty, and Governors Island. We headed underneath the Verrazano Bridge (the ship only clears the bridge's lower deck by several feet) and out into the Atlantic Ocean. An NYPD police boat followed behind, and a police helicopter flew overhead.

We spent eight nights and seven full days without any land or ships in sight. We encountered two days of rough seas, but the rest were otherwise choppy and sometimes very smooth.

The Queen Mary 2 is considered an ocean liner, meaning that it is made for ocean voyages and is very stable, regardless of sea conditions. To our surprise, the outside temperature during the day remained in the 50-degree Fahrenheit range. However, the weather varied from foggy, windy, and misty to hints of sun on some days. Our stateroom was on deck 11 out of 13 decks at the ship's center. We were told this would be the best location for less motion, but ultimately we found that being on a lower deck had the least motion at the ship's center.

Our onboard accommodations were equivalent to a five-star hotel. The ship provided complimentary Penhaligon



toiletries, which are well known in England, and bathrobes. We had an outside balcony with two chairs, which were refreshing on a nice day. Also, a stateroom steward made up our room during the day and turned down our beds each night.

I was concerned about being bored these seven days but was pleasantly surprised. The ship provided a daily printed program starting at 6:00 a.m. and ending after midnight; it listed the entertainment and activities for each day.

The Queen Mary Two has five pools; the pool on deck 12 has a retractable dome for all types of weather. There is also a full fitness center, a spa with a salon, a casino, an extensive library, several jacuzzis inside and out, 11 bars and lounges, excellent dining venues, complimentary 24-hour room service, and the only planetarium found at sea.

The highlight of each day was afternoon tea at 3:30 p.m. located in the largest ballroom at sea called the Queens Room. There was a string quartet, harpist, cocktail pianist, and approximately 30 elegantly dressed servers. The men and women who

serve the tea have a special presentation before the service begins. There are three courses for afternoon tea: the first course was petite sandwiches, the next were the scones (my favorite), and then were the pastries.

Every evening at 8:15 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., there was a show in the Royal Court Theater. The two noteworthy shows we saw featured the Royal Court Theater Company performing musical productions similar to Broadway shows. Another evening show featured a very funny British comedian, Phil Melbourne. The Queen Mary 2 has two full orchestras, and most lounges offer live music at night.

During the day, my favorite activity was a line dancing class and a Zumba class. There was also a daily ballroom dance class with a professional dance couple. When the weather cooperated, my husband Jonathan and I walked outside around the deck. Three times around, the running/walking deck equals one mile. Walking around the ship with a never-ending ocean view was exhilarating.

The onboard nightclub, G32, offers a DJ and a live band named Changez; we spent several nights there after dinner. The band alternated between the Queens Room and the G32. They played a variety of popular dance music. Also, we enjoyed the performance of the Blackthorn Irish Folk duo at the Golden Lion Pub. This venue was a typical British pub and served a wide selection of British beers, ciders, and other British specialties.

Every day at noon, the Captain would give a navigational announcement. It would include the position of the ship, the current weather, and the condition of the present and future seas. He also mentioned something unusual, but made sense. Since we were going to England and there was a five-hour time change ahead of Eastern Standard Time, we had to set our clocks one hour forward for five of the eight days at noon, and it became a little confusing for the meal services. Lunch would be too soon after breakfast, and tea time would be too soon after lunch. The westbound crossing is seemingly easier because the clocks are turned back one hour at 2:00 a.m. for five mornings.

We arrived at Southampton, England, early on a Saturday morning. We disembarked at 7:00 a.m. and shared a taxi with one of our new friends to the train station. The station was about two miles from the terminal. We planned to spend one night in London and fly back to New York from the London Heathrow Airport the next day.

The ride to London via the Southwestern Train Line takes about one and a half hours, with no changes and no reservations necessary. Many of the people from the ship proceed to other European countries for vacation after the ocean crossing, and interestingly enough, there is no limit on the amount of luggage that can be taken on this ship. The train we took ended at the Waterloo station, right in the center of London.

We stayed at a London Marriott Hotel in the Kensington area, which is a short underground ride from Waterloo Station, and a direct connection to Heathrow Airport without any changes.

We thoroughly enjoyed the transatlantic ocean crossing and look forward to taking the reverse voyage back to New York very soon. ■



WINGS OF LEGACY

PRESENTED BY THE AVIATION HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Honoring Our Legacy & Celebrating the Future.

Join Us for the Aviation High School Street Renaming Ceremony & Reception

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Alumni, Staff, Industry Partners, Community Members, and Friends of Aviation High School are Welcome to Join in the Celebration!

Street Renaming Event

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Aviation High School

The intersection of
36th Street & Queens Boulevard

Reception & Celebration

5:30 pm to 11:30 pm

Russo's on the Bay

162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard,
Howard Beach, Queens

Tickets can be purchased online at:
www.aviationhsef.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

The most comprehensive listing of New York & New Jersey airport and aviation events available anywhere online. www.metroairportnews.com/airport-events

📅 February 4

LAAMCO Monthly General Meeting
LaGuardia Airport-(LGA)
East Elmhurst, New York 11371
www.laamco.com

📅 February 11

JFK Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast
Red Apple Diner
Lynbrook, 11563
jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org

📅 February 11

ADDAPT Dinner Group
Heritage Club at Bethpage State Park
Farmingdale, New York 1173
www.addaptny.org

📅 February 11

Republic Airport Commission Meeting
Republic Airport-(FRG)
East Farmingdale, New York 11735
www.republicairport.net

📅 February 12

KAAMCO Member Meeting
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Port Authority Building
Queens, New York 11430
www.kaamco.org

📅 February 13

MBA Presents: Speed Networking & Business Matchmaking
New York State Capital
Albany, New York 12224
www.macarthurbusinessalliance.com

📅 February 24

Civil Air Patrol Falcon Squadron Meeting
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Jamaica, New York 11430
falconsquadron.cap.gov

📅 February 24-25

NYAMA Aviation Advocacy Day
Hampton Inn
Albany, NY 12205
www.nyama.aero

📅 February 25

2025 QCP Evening of Fine Food
2025 Chefs of the Year:
Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo, EdD, Vaughn College, and Uzoamaka N.Okoye,
The New Terminal One
Terrace on the Park
52-11 111th Street
Corona, New York 11368
www.queenscp.org

📅 February 27

KAAMCO Cargo Operations Committee Meeting
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Port Authority Building
Queens, New York 11430
www.kaamco.org

📅 March 3

JFK Airport Committee (JFKAC) Quarterly Meeting
Virtual Event
aircraftnoise.panynj.gov

📅 March 5

JFK Airport Rotary Club Dinner Meeting
Patrizia's of Long Island
Massapequa Park, NY 11762
www.jfkr Rotaryclub.org

📅 March 12

JFK Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
Speaker: Steve Thody
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City, New York 11530
jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org

📅 March 12

Civil Air Patrol Falcon Squadron Meeting
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Jamaica, New York 11430
falconsquadron.cap.gov

📅 March 18

MWBE Certification Webinar
Virtual Event
www.anewjfk.com

📅 March 19

JFK Airport Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association Member Meeting
Russo's On the Bay
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.jfkbrowsers.com

📅 March 20

JFK Air Cargo Association Expo 2025
Speaker: Stephanie Abeler, Vice President, Lufthansa Cargo Americas
Russo's On the Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.jfkaircargo.aero

📅 March 26

LaGuardia Airport Committee (LGAAC) Meeting
Virtual Event
aircraftnoise.panynj.gov

📅 March 30

Aviation High School Street Renaming Ceremony
Aviation High School
45-30 36th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
www.aviationhs.net

📅 March 30

Wings of Legacy: Aviation High School Boulevard Dedication Dinner & Dance
Russo's On the Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.aviationhsef.org

📅 April 10

Bishop Wright Aviation Industry Awards Luncheon
2025 Honorees:
▪ Elizabeth Schuette
The ARK at JFK
▪ Frank McIntyre
JFK Airport Chamber of Commerce
▪ Rev. Paul Egensteiner
Metropolitan New York Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Russo's On the Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.christfortheworldchapel.org

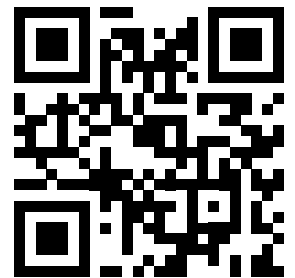
May 3, 2025 • York College



Registration Is Open for the ACF Charity Soccer Tournament

The Airport Community Foundation (ACF) and its partners are proud to introduce the ACF Cup, **a 5-on-5 soccer tournament benefiting the New York airport community**. The ACF Cup brings together teams comprised of players from airport companies for a day of competitive play and camaraderie. Beyond the on-field action, the tournament highlights the importance of supporting the next generation of aviation professionals and strengthening community connections while fostering teamwork and friendly rivalry among the airport community.

Register Your Company Team Today to Bring Home the Cup!



WWW.ACF-CUP.COM



Contact us for additional information (718) 750-4441 or info@acfhelps.org





Frequent User Discount Fares Available



\$26⁵⁰

10-ride cards

(valid for 30 days after first use)

\$42⁵⁰

**30-day
unlimited card**

(valid for 30 days after first use)

Check the expiration date on your discounted card at any AirTrain ticket vending machine.



John F. Kennedy
International Airport