



Media Contact:
Kelsey Marineau
(727) 821-5155 x126
kmarineau@paradiseadv.com

ALLEGiant AIR CEO MAURICE J. GALLAGHER, JR. NAMED 2015 TONY JANNUS AWARD RECIPIENT

Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society announces 52nd winner

ST. PETERSBURG, FL. (March 24, 2015) – Allegiant Air CEO Maurice J. Gallagher, Jr. today was announced as this year’s Tony Jannus Award Recipient during a press conference at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport. Gallagher will be presented the award at a dinner banquet held in his honor on November 5, 2015.

Dedicated to honoring exceptional leaders in the aviation community, the Tony Jannus Society chose Gallagher as the recipient for the prestigious award due to his outstanding achievements in the aviation industry. Since joining Allegiant in 2001, he has led the airline to become one of the most successful low-cost carriers in the world.

With headquarters in Las Vegas, Nevada, Allegiant Air offers service to 104 cities across the U.S., with a primary focus on linking travelers from underserved cities to top leisure destinations. Providing passengers with the opportunity to fly from their hometown airports to some of the largest cities in the nation, Allegiant is dedicated to producing the best travel deals to customers, flying from many of the most under-served airports in the country. Having been named one of America’s 100 Best Small Companies by Forbes Magazine for five consecutive years, and ranked by AVIATION WEEK as the Top-Performing Airline in North America for the three consecutive years, Allegiant is paving the way for the low-cost carrier industry.

“I am humbled to have been nominated amongst the prestigious group of Tony Jannus honorees such as Richard Anderson, Pedro Heilbron, Colleen Barrett and the many other aviation leaders,” said Maurice Gallagher, CEO of Allegiant Air. “This award pays tribute to all of our devoted team members around the country who are dedicated to the future success of Allegiant and the future of travel.”

Founded in 1997 in Fresno, California, Allegiant began scheduled passenger service between Fresno and Las Vegas. In December 2000, Allegiant filed for bankruptcy and Maurice J. Gallagher, Jr. gained control of the company during reorganization. In June 2001, Gallagher restructured the airline to a low-cost model and is the major creditor for the airline’s success thereafter. Due to the company’s unique strategy and inventive model, the airline has been able to remain profitable every quarter since 2003, despite industry challenges and economic downfalls.

“We are thrilled to see Mr. Gallagher receive this great honor,” said Noah Lagos, Airport Director of St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport. “Maury has taken a company out of bankruptcy and transformed it into one of the top performing, low-cost airlines in the country. We are proud to be able to offer non-stop routes to 43 cities with Allegiant and look forward to all the growth Allegiant has to offer.”

Before joining Allegiant, Gallagher founded Mpower Communications Corp., a telecommunications firm, and served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board for the company. He was also a founder of ValuJet Airlines, and a principal owner and executive of WestAir, a commuter airline.

About the Tony Jannus Award:

Since its first nominee in 1964, the Tony Jannus list of winners has grown to a virtual “Who’s Who” in the industry, including such luminaries as Brigadier General Charles Yeager, Donald W. Douglas, Sr., Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, Col. Frank Borman, Herb Kelleher, Sir Richard Branson, Joseph Leonard, Colleen Barrett and the 2008 honoree Larry Kellner of Continental Airlines. In addition to the Tony Jannus Award program, the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society recognizes outstanding local students with an annual essay contest and presents cash awards to deserving university students as part of the Society’s Scholarships Awards Program.

About the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society:

The Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society was established in 1964, by the Tampa and St. Petersburg Chambers of Commerce in honor of Tony Jannus, the pilot recognized by the Smithsonian as the founder of the world’s first scheduled airline. The airline - which began flights on New Year’s Day, 1914 - had only one plane, a single-engine Benoist flying boat that flew round trips daily between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida. The Society recognizes “outstanding contributors to the growth and improvement of the scheduled airline industry” and supports outstanding students and educators through the annual Tony Jannus Award and banquet.

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