

BIOGRAPHY: JOE LEONARD

Joe Leonard, Chairman and CEO of AirTran Airways, is known for the leadership and attitude he showed as he led the turn-around for AirTran Airways. He is honored with more than six recent aviation industry accolades, 14 successful labor contracts, the organization and contracting of more than 100 new aircraft and now the 2006 Tony Jannus Award recipient. From a local perspective, AirTran is among the largest and most successful airlines at Tampa International Airport, creating a positive image in Tampa and for itself.

Since his appointment to AirTran Airways in 1999, Mr. Leonard has continually proven his expertise in the aviation field by accomplishing unlikely feats for his company. Mr. Leonard marked a notable seven-year streak of profitability for AirTran Airways in an industry that had not been profitable since 2001.

Leonard's 30-year career began in Auburn, Alabama after he received his Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Auburn University. With a long history in the commercial air transport industry, Leonard held key management and executive positions at American Airlines, Northwest Airlines and the Boeing Company before becoming the chief operating officer for Eastern Air Lines.

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In September 1993, Mr. Leonard joined AlliedSignal Inc. as president and CEO leading the marketing, sales and service sector. Reaching to the sky for success, Leonard improved customer satisfaction for the aerospace unit, came up with strategic growth tactics, doubled aftermarket revenues to \$4.5 billion and then soon became senior vice president and member of the corporation's Executive Council. It was not long before Leonard became president and CEO for AlliedSignal, Inc.

Since Leonard's leadership at AirTran Airways, the company became the first of many great aeronautical feats while continuing to break new records in the industry. AirTran Airways is one of America's largest low-fare airlines and the second largest carrier in its hub located at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. With approximately 7,000 crew members operating more than 600 flights daily to more than 50 destinations, AirTran Airways is the world's largest Boeing 717 operator and the youngest fleet to own all Boeing aircraft, including one fuel-efficient Boeing 737-700, 85 Boeing 717s and 23 Boeing 737s. More than 100 planes with the average age of four years contain a livery design unlike any other fleet. AirTran Airways is also the first airline to provide XM Satellite Radio entertainment on commercial aircraft.

Leonard currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, The Commerce Club, The Wings Club and Walter Industries, Inc. Leonard resides in Orlando, Florida with his wife.

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