



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

THIS FALL IN A special ceremony, Embry-Riddle had the pleasure of taking possession of a 1928 WACO biplane Model 10—one of the first airplanes purchased by T. Higby Embry and John Paul Riddle when they began the great venture that would become today's Embry-Riddle.

We are proud to take a lead in preserving such a historic reminder of our past, especially because it shows just how far we have come. Back in 1928, the Embry-Riddle Company delivered the U.S. mail, sold airplanes and taught people how to fly. Today, we prepare pilots, engineers, air traffic controllers, meteorologists, MBAs and even the scientists who will one day land humans on Mars.

In this issue of *Lift*, you will meet alumni who have used that Embry-Riddle education to make a little history of their own.

Cheryl Stearns used her degrees—and a good dose of nerve and determination—to become a pilot for US Airways, a national champion skydiver and the first-ever female member of the U.S. Army's Golden Knights parachute team.

Ryan Kelly was injured in combat in Iraq and lost part of his right leg. He is using his Embry-Riddle degree to

achieve his dream of becoming a pilot and, as part of the Wounded Warrior Project, he successfully lobbied Washington to secure disability insurance for veterans, a landmark achievement.

These stories represent a phenomenon that has been going on for decades: One by one, year after year, Embry-Riddle graduates are using their degrees to make history and shape a brighter future for us all.

I feel certain that, whatever challenges lie ahead in our future, one thing will remain constant: Embry-Riddle and its alumni will continue to set the standard for leadership in aviation and aerospace by meeting the challenges head on with determination, innovation and the pioneering spirit that, from the very beginning, has been a part of our great history.

Warmest regards,

John P. Johnson, Ph.D.
President

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