

LIFT

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The Past: Eagles Who Shaped Our First Century

The Present: Today's Students Share Goals and Dreams

The Future: Innovators Envision What's Next



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EAGLES WHO SHAPED US

Embry-Riddle's story lives through the mentors, builders and dreamers who shaped its first century

BY KIM SHEETER

At some point in your time at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, whether in class or at commencement, you met someone who influenced the course of the university and the lives of its students. These rare souls kept a steady course in stormy seas. They

built campuses, buildings, colleges, degree programs. They kept planes flying, libraries open and the lights on. They loved teaching you and your fellow alumni so much that they retired from Embry-Riddle or are still here. Tell us about the Eagles who shaped you at liftmag@erau.edu.

VISIONARIES AND BUILDERS



JOHN C. 'JAY' ADAMS JR. (HON. DOC. '08)

Jay Adams paired sharp business instincts with deep community commitment for more than four decades to transform the university into a global leader.

In 1964-65, when the university sought a new home, he joined the Committee of 100 and threw himself into Operation Bootstrap – a grassroots relocation of the campus from Miami to Daytona Beach powered by financial contributions, volunteer labor and borrowed trucks.

As trustee and later board chairman for 41 years, Adams led capital campaigns that produced the ICI Center, the Crotty Tennis Complex and the University Sports Complex – projects that shaped the university's identity. Adams Hall stands today as a tribute to his stewardship. He and his wife, Leila, were Embry-Riddle's most dedicated basketball fans, attending nearly every game and championing athletic scholarships and opportunities. Adams' business discipline and heartfelt loyalty left a lasting imprint on the campus he helped build since his passing in 2019.

JOHN AMORE ('72)

A Vietnam Army helicopter pilot who went on to lead a global insurance enterprise, John Amore has served on the Board of Trustees since 2010, offering perspective that helped shape Embry-Riddle's financial strength and future direction. Through the Amore Family Endowed Scholarship, he supports students navigating the same transition from military to civilian life that shaped his own journey.

KEN DUFOUR ('85, '89)

Ken Dufour built a career advancing avionics systems – from windshear detection to traffic collision avoidance and satellite communications – improving safety across global aviation. A trustee since 1998, Dufour is one of the longest serving trustees. He's known for championing students, making sure to engage with them while on campus ahead of board meetings.

JIM HENDERSON

Jim Henderson, chairman and CEO of AssuredPartners, has helped guide Embry-Riddle with steady judgment since joining the Board of Trustees in 2003, including service as board chair. He supported major capital efforts, strengthened financial foundations and championed students, including support for the Eagles Care fund. The Jim W. Henderson Administration and Welcome Center reflects his lasting commitment to the university.

JOSEPH MARTIN ('74, HON. DOC. '18)

Joseph "Joe" Martin, a Vietnam helicopter pilot turned semiconductor executive, has served on the Board of Trustees since 2005, including as treasurer. Known for steady financial stewardship and quiet humility, he helped guide Embry-Riddle through significant growth, often saying he is grateful to have "played a small part" in the university's progress.

MORI HOSSEINI ('78, '79, '82, HON. DOC. '13)

When Mori Hosseini arrived at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus in the 1970s, his goal was simple: earn a degree and begin a life in aviation. He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees, and in 2014, he became the first alumnus to chair the Board of Trustees.

Hosseini joined the Board in 1999 and served on key committees. As Chairman and CEO of ICI Homes, he has managed major projects and long-term growth – skills he applies to the university. He has championed a 50-year master plan, supported enhancements on the Prescott Campus and led efforts that created the Student Union in Daytona Beach.

He has brought top voices from aerospace, business and education onto the Board and secured transformational state support for academic programs, research and infrastructure. His advocacy continues to strengthen laboratories, residence halls and athletics, including upgrades to the ICI Center. "The way I see it, the people who came before me, helped me get here; and the people before them, helped them," Hosseini says. "And I need to help the future generation."

