

HOWIE FRANKLIN

Keynote at UMAS 2017

Imagine the abundance of stories a person would have if they worked personally with five leaders of the United States. Howie Franklin, the keynote speaker for the Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium (UMAS) 2017, was the first U.S. Air Force flight attendant to serve five Presidents aboard Air Force One, and he has the stories to prove it. In his younger days, Howie worked as a waiter for the jet-set crowd at the ritzy Talisman Yacht Club on Fire Island, NY. Unknowingly, his experience serving the rich and famous prepared him for a career he never imagined he would have. He joined the Air Force at age 20 to avoid being drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War, and ended up working in food service. Howie wasn't fond of his job though and was counting down the days until he was done, when he was given the opportunity to work as a flight attendant. Soon Howie was traveling the world, attending to high-ranking military officials and government leaders. One such person was Dr. Henry Kissinger, during his famous shuttle diplomacy trips under the Nixon and Ford administrations in the 1970's. Soon after Howie became a part of the famous 89th Wing, serving aboard Air Force One. For 18 years he served five different presidents: Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. Listening to Howie's stories about each president you can imagine yourself riding along on a presidential mission, sitting next to them aboard Air Force One. Howie spent 29 years in the Air Force, 18 of those on the presidential aircraft, and he reached the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Over time he came to realize that all the people he had served, from those at the Talisman Yacht Club to the President of the United States, may have been famous but they were still human. Currently Howie works as Director of Cape Fear Regional Jetport at Howie Franklin Field, and is the past president and a current member of the Executive Board of Directors of the North Carolina Airports Association. Howie's years of experience both as a flight attendant and managing an airport provide him with entertaining and expert material on General Aviation. Come listen to his stories and learn from his experiences at UMAS 2017!

