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TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## Jet Linx CEO celebrates decades-long tenure, multiple company milestones

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Mr. Walker took over as president and CEO of the private aviation company in 2007, succeeding his father, founder Denny Walker. Image credit: Jet Linx

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Private aviation firm Jet Linx has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 20 years, thanks in large part to initiatives piloted by company president and CEO Jamie Walker.



Since joining the company in 2002, Mr. Walker has executed a number of initiatives many of them industry firsts which have taken Jet Linx from a local company to setting the industry standard for training and service.

Higher and higher

Mr. Walker took over as president/CEO in of Jet Linx in 2007 from his father Denny Walker, who founded the company in 1999.

Still, it was shortly after joining the company in 2002 as director of sales and marketing, that the junior Mr. Walker implemented the first "private terminal" concept, so that large corporations as well as private individuals could be guaranteed private jet service.

Beginning with the first base in Omaha, the company began adding new terminals in 2008 starting with Denver and expanding to a total of 21 nationwide locations.

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A post shared by Jet Linx (@jetlinxav)

Minneapolis became part of that number in 2020 (see story). To further ensure aircraft availability for members, Jet Linx maintains a 1-to-12 ratio of the former to the latter.

This focus on providing service, training, maintenance and management from sources local to each terminal was another of Mr. Walker's ideas. These contributions resulted in a flying experience that prompted Forbes Travel Guide to appoint Jet Linx as its official private aviation company in 2019.

Under Mr. Walker's tenure, the number of pilots employed by Jet Linx has grown from eight to 265, an increase of 3,212 percent. That pool of talent is sure to grow since Jet Linx partnered with ATP Flight School in 2022 to form direct hiring path for ATP candidates to join Jet Linx as first officers.

For those pilots already employed in private aviation who want to expand their horizons, Jet Linx partnered with Southwest Airlines in 2019 to form the Destination 225 program, which allows pilots to transition from private to commercial flying.

Mr. Walker launched the Jet Linx Safety Summit in 2017, another first for the industry. Every year, for a full business day, all company operations are paused so that all personnel can review and improve safety standards.

For all of these and other innovations, Mr. Walker received the Bill Shea Award from the Aviation Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha last April. The award honors leaders who have made significant impact on the aviation industry.

More information about Jet Linx can be found here.

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