



December 28, 2015

Hartsfield-Jackson Makes History

ATL becomes first airport ever to serve 100 million passengers in a single year

ATLANTA – Under a water cannon salute provided by Atlanta Fire and Rescue vehicles, and in front of hundreds of guests, dignitaries and fellow passengers, Flight 1256 made history at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) Sunday morning. The Delta Air Lines flight from Gulfport, Mississippi carried ATL's 100 millionth passenger in 2015, marking the first time ever an airport served more than 100 million passengers in a single year. "I'm happy I could be part of it," said 35 year-old Larry Kendrick, 24 hours after he was tabbed as ATL's 100 millionth passenger. "I'm still surprised. I've flown in and out of Atlanta quite often, and I enjoy it."

"Today, we are making aviation history," Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed told the crowd moments before the flight arrived. "As we move into 2016, it is our commitment to maintain our position as the world's most travelled airport, the most efficient, and soon we will start competing to be the most sustainable."

"What a year it has been," ATL General Manager Miguel Southwell said. He cited both the growth of Atlanta as a destination and a strong partnership between ATL and Delta Air Lines as the main explanation for the five percent increase in traffic over the previous year. Officials projected a two percent increase at the start of 2015. "Without Delta," he added, "we simply would not be standing here today."

As part of the celebration, Mr. Kendrick was given a 2015 Nissan Altima from Nissan of Union City; two Delta One round-trip tickets good for any destination in the world; a \$500 Thanks Again gift card; and a set of wireless headphones from InMotion Entertainment group.

Mr. Kendrick, an industrial construction worker traveling from his home in Biloxi to a job in Iowa, was thrilled. "My past two vehicles have been Nissans, I like them," he said, adding that his Delta tickets may be used for an overseas flight. "I've seen a lot of the United States, so Australia is definitely in the mix. Dubai does sound pretty good, too. I don't know – it's up in the air," he said, laughing.

ATL officials created an algorithm based on actual passenger numbers from January through November, and projected passenger numbers in December. Accounting firm KPMG validated the algorithm and had representatives attend the event early Sunday morning.

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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Hartsfield-Jackson (ATL) is the world's busiest and most efficient airport, serving more than 96.1 million passengers annually with nonstop service to more than 150 U.S. destinations and nearly 70 international destinations in more than 45 countries. ATL boasts a direct economic impact of \$34.8 billion in metro Atlanta and a total direct economic impact of \$70.9 billion in Georgia. The Airport is the largest employer

in Georgia, with more than 63,000 employees. The Airport is a frequent recipient of awards of excellence for concessions, operations, architectural engineering and construction – including the 2013 Global Efficiency Excellence Award from the Air Transport Research Society, 2013 Project of the Year, Architectural Category for the Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal from the American Association of Airport Executives Southeast chapter and the 2012 Best Airport in North America, Business Travel Award from the Business Traveler Magazine. ATL has completed more than \$6 billion worth of capital improvements, including a new, energy-efficient rental car center, a gold LEED-certified international terminal and aesthetic and functional upgrades to its concourses, people movers and parking services. For more information, go to www.atlanta-airport.com. Check out the Airport's YouTube channel by visiting www.youtube.com/AtlantaHartsfield, follow us on Twitter (@Atlanta_Airport) and become a fan on Facebook (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport).

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS

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