NEWS RELEASE

Straight to the Gate: David Pearson

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A love of aviation, Washington, D.C., and keeping the American Airlines fleet up and running is what has kept David Pearson working at the world's largest airline for the past 30 years.

"I'm a native Washingtonian. I've been here at this airport for close to 30 years and have been given an opportunity to achieve most things that folks may look at and say 'wow, that is just the normal run of his job' but it's been an incredible feature that American has given me," said David. "I truly enjoy it and am very thankful."

As an aviation maintenance technician, David prides himself on knowing the ins and outs of every plane he works on. "We maintain every facet of the airplane," he said. "From its engine propulsion systems to its airframe to its electronics and avionics."

For David, customer experience is always top of mind. "My job is to maintain the fleet in an airworthiness condition and to make sure customers get from point A to point B safely," David said.

David recalls one particular time his team worked on an aircraft with an ignitions system failure. Temperatures were well below freezing. "We actually had to change the entire ignition lead and got the airplane out with minimal delay. The customers all applauded," he said.

The love of American runs in the family. David met his wife Cynthia, a flight attendant, at a company Christmas party in 1998. “We got married in 2004, and combined we have four children who we dearly love. She has been flying for American for 37 years and I have close to 30 years with American,” he said.

Cynthia was also able to surprise David for his 50th birthday, a trip he will never forget. “She took me on a trip to Rome. We got to spend my birthday at the Vatican and we got the Christmas blessing from Pope Francis, which was just an incredible, incredible highlight in my life,” David said.

Love of family, the airline, fellow team members and customers have helped craft the last 30 years of a successful career.

“I have been truly blessed to be able to work with one airline for my entire career.”