American Airlines Newsroom

NEWS RELEASE

Doug's Bag: Carrying on a pilot's legacy

9/12/2019

Miami-based Capt. Rich Williams was walking through the crew room at Miami International Airport (MIA) two years ago when something in the lost and found pile caught his eye. Amongst some of the forgotten items, he noticed something that seemed out of place — a flight bag in good condition.

Rich remembered, "I knew this bag must've been left on accident. It was in too good of shape. So I picked it up and set out to find its owner."

Rich didn't know it then, but this one small act of showing care for a colleague, would change his life, the lives of many others and the owner of the flight bag fellow MIA-based pilot, First Officer Doug Hetzel.

After reaching out, Rich learned that Doug was experiencing ALS or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and wasn't going to be able to come back to American anytime soon.

Learn more about Rich and Doug's story in the inspiring video below.




03:30
CC