

STEVE MARTIN

From Forest Park to the Largest Airlines: Keeping Delta's Planes in the Sky, and Passengers Safe

Graduate: Steve Martin Class of 1983 Occupation: Aircraft Maintenance Technician

Brought up in a military family, Steve is fascinated with airplanes. Born in Washington, Indiana, he and his family moved from town to town in Indiana: Brownsburg, Greencastle, Pendleton, Anderson, and Ferdinand. A 1983 graduate of Forest Park, he believes that, "school is important, but you can always have fun." His decisions in high school to be in the military after he graduated; had a significant impact on how he lives his life today. He has always said, "Take some time to think about what you want to do. Get you ducks in a row and start with duck #1."

Ever since Steve's youth, he always wanted to work with planes and enlist in the military. After Forest Park, he joined the military to work on damaged planes. As a member of the U.S. Air Force for four years, he really enjoyed his service experience because of his love of planes and because his dad also served in the Air Force. He said that the military prepared him for the real world.

After Steve graduated from the Community College of the Air Force, he returned to Ferdinand and worked at MasterBrand for seven years. One day he received a phone call from Delta Airlines in Atlanta saying that the company wanted him to work there as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician. He immediately decided that that was what he wanted to do; therefore, he, his wife, and their three kids-Zachary, Nicholas, and Samantha-moved to Georgia, where Steve could pursue the career of his dreams.

Although his children love living in Atlanta, they all say they want to move back to this area when they get older. Living in Atlanta, they have a chance to express themselves in ways they wouldn't have around here. Cultural diverse and free-spirited, their community allows them to wear their hair and clothes how they want without criticism.

As the largest airlines in the world, Delta also ranks the busiest. Steve's job encounters the teardown and remanufacturing of the engine. He then has to make sure that all the parts are functioning properly. He also had to take safety classes to help prevent injury from happening. One memorable day at work, lightning struck him! He and his lead mechanic were working outside in the pouring rain. Luckily he lived to tell about it.

After working at Delta for nine years, when the company went bankrupt, Steve decided to move his family home. He then earned a job back at MasterBrand, where he worked for six months. He was really enjoying his job; however, deep down he wanted his other job back. The best Christmas present he could have asked for came that year after living in grandma's house for six months, when Delta called him and asked him to come back. Steve said yes immediately. Because they couldn't sell their house during this time period, they had a house that they could just move back into in Atlanta.

Steve is ecstatic about his job, and he says that when he retires, he would really enjoy moving back home. Until then, he loves his home and job. Steve has words of wisdom for everybody: "Life is a plane, so sit down, listen up, take notes, and pray that nothing goes wrong."