



Erik R. Lindbergh

A commercial rated pilot, artist, entrepreneur, and professional speaker, Erik Lindbergh is the grandson of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Erik is the Brand Ambassador for Air Charter Service, a world leader in jet, cargo and airliner charters. Always thinking about how to create the future, Erik is also the founder of LEAP, the Lindbergh Prize and the Electric Aircraft Development Alliance designed to accelerate the development of the electric aircraft industry. www.lindberghprize.org

A master storyteller, Erik uses exciting images, video clips, and humor to take his audience on a journey through the past, present, and into the future of flight. This journey sets the scene for LEAP which is cultivating the next generation of storytellers and innovators through crowd sourced innovation, project-based education, and prize philanthropy. *“LEAP is the culmination of my work over the last two decades in aviation, education and prize philanthropy.”*

Personal Background:

Erik’s story is one of triumph over adversity. Erik won the all-around Washington State Gymnastics Championships at age 11 and competed in water-skiing, and alpine and telemark ski racing during his teens. After climbing and skiing Mount Rainier at age 21, Erik was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis and by age 30 he could barely walk. During the late-1990s, knee replacements and a breakthrough biotechnology drug gave him a second chance at having an active life.

Armed with a degree in Aeronautical Science, Erik recreated his grandfather’s historic 1927 solo flight, leaving from Republic Airport on Long Island and landing at Le Bourget Airport in Paris on May 2, 2002. The journey taught him and his team valuable lessons about preparation, risk management and teamwork, while illustrating the human spirit’s ability to dream, innovate, and achieve one’s goals against many odds. This epic personal journey, documented by the History Channel, raised over one million dollars for three charities and prompted a call from the President of the United States for inspiring the country after the tragedy of September 11th.



Erik now finds himself living with positive intention, creativity, and optimism. His life experiences - excellent physical health shattered by debilitating illness, then miraculously restored - have sharpened his awareness of how precious and limited his time really is.

In addition to inspiring and entertaining audiences, his lessons apply to all facing daunting and difficult challenges including: managing risk; project planning; training to improve the chances of success; overcoming adversity; teamwork and resource management.

Erik currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Aviation High School in Seattle, WA and on the Board of Directors of NatureBridge - Olympic National Park. Erik served for fourteen years on the Board of Trustees of the X PRIZE Foundation. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Lindbergh Foundation, worked in public relations for Columbia Aircraft Manufacturing, and served as the national spokesperson for AOPA's project pilot mentorship program. Erik is also an accomplished artist whose unique sculpture and furniture designs out of wood and bronze can be seen at www.LindberghGallery.com

Erik's work with the XPRIZE Foundation showed him that the impossible dream is indeed possible. *"We changed the way the world thinks about spaceflight, and we unleashed the potential for incentive prizes to be applied to the great technical, social and environmental problems of our time – now is the time to realize that potential."*

"Hearing your story, the obstacles you've overcome, and how much you have accomplished is awe inspiring. I left the room that night with the feeling that I, too, could set the world on fire..."

— I. Labombarde, Aviation Historical Society



Erik's diverse list of speaking clients includes:

American Airlines, Amgen, BT, Chevron, Wyeth, Mayo Clinic, Arthritis Foundation, St. Louis Science Center, National Air and Space Museum, Florida Institute of Technology, Jackson Middle School, Aero Club de France, Explorer's Club, Royal Astronomical Society, Federal Aviation Administration, NASA, United States Air Force Academy, and US Congress.

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