



Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Presents Astronaut Wings to Virgin Galactic's SpaceShip Two Crew

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today pinned FAA Astronaut Wings on Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo crewmembers, Test Pilots Mark "Forger" Stucky and Fredrick "CJ" Sturckow. Last year's historic spaceflight marked the nation's return to space on an American-made rocket, and paves the way for future travel to space with commercial spaceflight participants.

"We are entering a new and exciting frontier in our nation's space activities," said Secretary Chao. "These wings represent a remarkable achievement for these crewmembers and tell all Americans that their access to the wonders of space may be within their reach."



where it released the spacecraft. Stucky and Sturckow lit the engine and guided the VSS Unity 51.39 miles (271,340 feet) above the Earth and into space. The vehicle returned from

space and safely glided back to the spaceport, guided by its pilots. The VSS Unity was manufactured in America by The Spaceship Company, a California-based company owned by Virgin Galactic and headquartered in the Mojave desert.

Sir Richard Branson, the Founder of Virgin Group said, "The U.S. leads the world both in the exploration of space and in creating the conditions for a new space age, where it will operate alongside and in partnership with the private sector. While today's awards ceremony is, of course, a proud moment for our wonderful pilots and the whole Virgin Galactic team, it is also symbolic of an enabling regulatory framework that allows for innovation while prioritizing safety. It is this

which has allowed us to pursue our dreams and which will ultimately underpin our commercial success as we seek to democratize space for the benefit of humankind."

Stucky and Sturckow now become two of only four Americans to receive FAA Astronaut

Wings. In 2004, Scaled Composites was awarded the \$10 million Ansari XPrize when it sent the reusable SpaceShipOne on two successful FAA-licensed commercial spaceflights. The test pilots of those flights, Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie, received their FAA Astronaut Wings directly after the last flight of the vehicle on Oct. 4, 2004.

The FAA is responsible for licensing, overseeing, and regulating all U.S. commercial space transportation activities. Among the many FAA requirements for Astronaut Wings is the requirement that the wings are only to be awarded to crewmembers who fly beyond 50 statute miles above the surface of the Earth on a launch vehicle licensed (or permitted) by FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation. A statute mile is one land-measured mile. To learn more about

the FAA commercial space transportation activities, including FAA Astronaut Wings, visit: https://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=19074.



On December 13, 2018, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, named the "VSS Unity" was carried aloft by the WhiteKnight Two carrier aircraft from the Mojave, California Air and Space Port. With Stucky and Sturckow onboard the VSS Unity, the WhiteKnight Two gradually climbed to an altitude of almost 40,000 feet



帶你去過中國新年 Lunar New Year Holiday Celebrations in Greater Cleveland this week!

Friday, February 15th, 6:45 p.m. Lunar New Year Celebration with the Kwan Family Lion Dance performance at Pad Thai, 5657 Darrow Road, Hudson, Ohio.

Saturday, February 16th, 11 a.m. Lunar New Year with the Kwan Family Lion Dance Performance, Li Wah Restaurant in Asia Plaza, 2999 Payne Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. Sorry, no reservations accepted; First come, first served.

Saturday, February 16th, 4 p.m. Kwan Family Lion Dance Performance, Golden Dragon Restaurant, 5871 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland, Ohio..

Saturday, February 16th, 6:30 p.m. Kwan Family Lion Dance Performance, Bo Loong

Restaurant, 3922 St Clair Ave NE, Cleveland, Ohio.

Sunday, February 17th, 12 p.m. Celebrate Chinese New Year with a special Kwan Family Lion Dance Performance, Dragon Gate Restaurant, 6681 W 130th St, Parma Heights, Ohio.

Sunday, February 17th, 2 p.m. Kwan Family Lion Dance Performance, Imperial Dragon, 8310 Tyler Blvd, Mentor, Ohio.

Sunday, February 17th, 2:30-6 p.m. Central Ohio Families with Children from China Chinese New Year 2019, Dublin Community Center (Performances on the Abbey Theater stage), 5600 Post Rd, Dublin, Ohio 43017. Chinese buffet by Joy Food One; Special Master of Ceremony: Angela An. This event is open to everyone. Invite your friends and family, and feel free to share this invitation with those who might be interested in COFCC or the Chinese adoption community.

Sunday, February 17th, 5 p.m. Year of the Pig Celebration with the Kwan Family Lion Dance, Hunan Solon, 6050 Enterprise Pkwy,

Solon, Ohio.

Sunday, February 17th, 5:30 p.m. OCA 2019 Lunar New Year Dinner, Li Wah, 2999 Payne Ave. Cleveland, Ohio.. Celebrate the Lunar New Year with OCA Greater Cleveland and enjoy a 10-course Chinese dinner and the Kwan Lion Dance Team performance. \$27/\$30 Tickets at <https://oca2019cny.eventbrite.com> (limited availability).

Sunday, February 17th, 5:30-8:00 p.m. MotivAsians Lunar New Year Dinner 2019, Li Wah, 2999 Payne Ave. Cleveland, Ohio. Join MotivAsians for an exclusive 10-course dinner and lion dancing celebration to ring in the Chinese New Year: Year of the Boar! Space is limited.

Sunday, February 17th, 7 p.m. Lunar New Year with the Kwan Family Lion Dance Performance, Li Wah Restaurant in Asia Plaza, 2999 Payne Ave., Cleveland, Ohio SOLD OUT

For more information on these and other Lunar New Year events, visit <https://ocagc.org/2019lunarnewyearcalendar/>

#YearoftheBoar #YearofthePig #LunarNewYear #ChineseNewYear #SpringFestival #AsiatownCLE



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