

Ely Air Lines –

Resolutions

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Flying the New Year
One Leg at a Time

Every January brings the same familiar pressure: new year, new goals, new expectations. We talk about fresh starts as if they require dramatic changes – bold resolutions, grand declarations, and a clean slate by sunrise on January 1.

Let’s think a little differently.

In aviation, you don’t launch a year all at once. You launch a flight. One briefing. One set of conditions. One decision to go or not go. And then you deal with what the sky actually gives you.

That mindset turns out to be pretty useful at the start of a new year.

Most pilots are planners by nature, but also realists. We don’t expect perfect weather just because the calendar flipped. We check forecasts, look for trends, and accept that uncertainty

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LONE STAR FLIGHT
MUSEUM
FREE MUSEUM
DAYS

HOUSTON - The Lone Star Flight Museum (LSFM) is hosting Free Museum Days through February 2026. Every Tuesday will be free for the museum’s general admission visitors. To receive tickets at no cost, register online in advance at LoneStarFlight.org. or at the museum on Tuesdays for use on that day only. Other restrictions apply.



is part of the deal. Sometimes the smartest move is to wait. Sometimes it’s to go while the window is open. And sometimes it’s to stay on the ground and be glad you did.

New Year’s resolutions often fail because they assume smooth air ahead. Aviation teaches us something better: build margins. Fuel reserves. Extra time. Room to change your mind. Emergency landing spots. We don’t plan these contingencies because we expect everything to go wrong – we plan them because things might. That’s wisdom earned at altitude.

There’s also something worth mentioning about the way pilots measure progress. We log hours, sure, but what we really remember are moments: a perfect approach, a tough crosswind landing, a sunrise that made an early departure worthwhile. Not every flight is memorable, and that’s okay. Not every day needs to be.

A year works the same way.

You don’t need to transform everything at once. You just need to show up prepared for the next leg. Make small corrections. Recalculate when needed.

Choose better routes when you learn more.

Another take-away from the world of aviation is knowing the value of alternates. When weather closes in on Plan A, having another option isn’t failure – it’s good judgment. Life works that way too. Adjusting course isn’t giving up. It’s staying in the air.

As the new year begins, airports are often quiet. The rush of the holidays has passed. The sky feels reset. It’s a good time to accept that progress doesn’t have to be loud or immediate. Sometimes it looks like a methodical pre-flight, a careful taxi, and a steady climb into whatever comes next.

There’s comfort in that approach, especially at a time of year when so much noise insists we move faster, aim higher, and do more immediately. Veterans of the air know that’s not always the best course. We trust preparation over impulse, patience over pressure. We understand that good outcomes often come from saying “not yet” as much as from saying “go.” A well-flown year, like a well-flown trip, is rarely rushed – and almost never accidental.

You don’t need fireworks to begin again.

Just a clear mind, a workable plan, and the willingness to fly the next leg well.

Wishing you blue skies for 2026.

ElyAirLines.substack.com

Happy
New Year!

2026

Thanks for choosing us and putting
your trust in our service.
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year of serving you.

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Writing competition for grades 4-12

AUSTIN, TX - The Texas Center for the Book has announced the Letters About Literature Texas writing contest “Read. Be Inspired. Write Back.” Texas 4th through 12th graders are invited to participate in this annual writing competition.

Students select a book, book series, essay, play, poem, short story or speech and write a letter to an author, living or dead, explaining how his or her work changed their view of themselves or the world. They may write about challenging events in their lives that relate to a book they have read. The possibilities are limitless.

There are three cate-

gories of competition: grades 4-6, grades 7-8 and grades 9-12. The contest is open to all Texas students, including public, private and home school.

First-place winners receive \$300. Second-place



winners receive \$200, and third-place winners receive \$100. Winning students will be recognized and receive their awards at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Houston, in

March 2026.

The online submission portal (txexasstatelibrary-submittable.com/submit) is open. The deadline is 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26, 2026.

Applications are accepted only through the portal. Students younger than age 13 must also submit a signed permission form in order to enter the contest.

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Efficiency. Fairness. Accountability.

After much prayer and consideration, Josh Fitzgerald, a graduate of Texas A&M and the University of Texas School of Law with nearly two decades of legal experience, announces his candidacy for the 253rd Judicial District Court.

When making the decision to run for election, Josh’s thoughts continuously returned to his two small children. “I want my sons to grow up in a community with leaders focused on prioritizing service over self-interest, and where the rule of law applies equally to everyone.”

A local attorney with extensive experience practicing throughout Texas, Fitzgerald has witnessed firsthand the need for balanced, even-handed judicial leadership. His practice has given him deep insight into the real-world impact of court decisions on families and businesses throughout the district.

“I will never waiver in my belief that the core purpose of the 253rd District Judge is to act as an unbiased public servant to the people of Chambers and Liberty Counties. I look forward to earning your trust.” - Josh Fitzgerald

Early Voting begins February 17, 2026. Election Day March 3, 2026

JoshFitzgeraldForJudge.com

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