



## Résumé

### Gary C. Kelly

Chairman Emeritus, Southwest Airlines

#### Southwest Airlines Co.

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Gary Kelly is the Chairman Emeritus at Southwest Airlines and most recently served as Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors for more than 16 years from 2008 to 2022 and Chief Executive Officer for 18 years from 2004 through January 2022. Under Gary's leadership, Southwest grew to become the nation's largest airline in terms of originating domestic passengers carried and a mainstay on *Fortune* magazine's list of the most admired companies in the world, ranking 39<sup>th</sup> in 2024.

Gary began his career at Southwest Airlines in 1986 as Controller, moving up to Chief Financial Officer and Vice President Finance, then Executive Vice President and CFO in 2001, before being promoted to CEO and Vice Chairman in July 2004. Gary assumed roles as Chairman and President in 2008. Gary started his career in 1977 as a CPA for Arthur Young & Company in Dallas.

Under Gary's tenure, Southwest Airlines maintained an unprecedented streak of 47 consecutive years of profitability until 2020—an unmatched record in commercial aviation. That same year, Southwest ranked highest in Customer Satisfaction for the fourth consecutive year among Low-Cost Carriers in the J.D. Power North American Satisfaction Study and consistently was recognized as one of Glassdoor's Best Places to work.

Gary pioneered the airline's transformation through several major initiatives, including the acquisition of AirTran Airways, the repeal of the Wright Amendment, the launch of international destinations, the installment of a new reservation system, and the launch of service to Hawaii in 2019—all while staying true to the Company's core values and People-centric Culture.

Gary has received numerous awards and recognitions over the years, including the 2024 L. Welch Pogue Award for lifetime achievement in aviation; 2020 Philanthropic Leadership Award by the Ireland Funds; 2017 Wings Club Distinguished Achievement Award; 2017 Junior Achievement Dallas Business Hall of Fame; 2016 Texas Business Hall of Fame; and 2016 Tony Jannus Award. Gary was twice named *D* CEO Magazine's CEO of the Year; he has been named one of the best CEOs in America by *Institutional Investor* magazine three times. Gary was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010, and the UT McCombs School of Business Hall of Fame in 2013. Gary received the 2013 Father of the Year Award and the 2013 McLane Leadership in Business Award at Texas A&M University.

Gary is a lifelong Texan and received a B.B.A. in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin in 1977. As a proud alumnus, Gary has continued to serve the University in a number of capacities, including on the McCombs Business School Advisory Council and the University's Development Board. Gary is a retired Certified Public Accountant and serves on the Board of Directors on the Lincoln National Corporation as the Audit Committee Chairman. Gary retired from the Board of Airlines for America, the airline industry advocacy group, where he served as Chairman from 2012-2014 and 2020-2022. Gary is an Emeritus Member of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Board; the Deputy Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Board; and a member of the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) Dallas Roundtable, the Business Council, and the Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the Dallas Citizen's Council and was an appointee to the Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness, under the U.S. Department of Commerce, from 2022 until 2025.