



**Thomas Idiculla, WAMA past President and founder of Thomas's Aircraft Supplies, a leading aircraft parts and supplies business**

Interview by Dave Schiavone March 2022

On the day I was asked to do a Spotlight on a longtime friend and past Westchester Aircraft Maintenance Association President (1994-1995), Mr. Thomas Idiculla, I was willing and couldn't wait to start our conversation. It had been a while since we had spoken, and I was looking forward to catching up with him.

For as long as I could remember, Tom has been a strong supporter of WAMA. Tom would always bring a sense of appreciation whenever he attended a dinner meeting or one of our events. He enjoyed the fact that the association grew each year and continued to provide positive networking and education with the ability to offer a dinner meeting outside of the work environment.

WAMA is still one of the oldest aviation maintenance organizations in the world and still provides a place where corporate members can discuss their latest work.

At our functions, Tom would look around and say hello to the countless friends and associates he made throughout the years. Many would recall when Tom visited them at work usually bringing a fresh bag of bagels for breakfast. Thomas has been a board member of WAMA having various responsibilities.



One thing, I remember about Tom was how passionate he was about WAMA and still is today. He worked hard as a board member always giving 100 percent and setting a good example of hard work and dedication. He truly believed in networking with members, friends and his loyal customers. You could always count on Tom's word as if it were golden.



Tom established an aviation parts business back in 1977, Thomas's Aircraft Supplies, Inc. It became one of the leading part's suppliers to the corporate aviation industry. He concentrated on the needs of corporate flight departments. Thomas provides his customers with a steady supply of ground support equipment, spare parts and rotables for all corporate aircraft. He has a 10,000 sq. ft. facility that houses a large selection of rotables and consumables for Gulfstream, Falcon,

Bombardier, Hawker, Sikorsky S-76, Learjet, Cessna and King Air aircraft. He is located outside of Stewart International Airport, New York, with shipments and deliveries anywhere in the world. With 45 years in the industry, his business is a trusted source for quality products and exceptional customer service.

## 1. What does WAMA mean to you?

"To me, WAMA means pride and joy to be a member in this professional organization. WAMA's membership includes people all the way to Canada starting from Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. WAMA is not a mere organization where people meet in a club-like atmosphere where people know what is expected.

When you are associated with an organization like WAMA, you are dealing with aviation professionals. It is a place to meet friends from the aviation community while you are having fun, having a drink and enjoying excellent food. Here, you are learning from the sponsors such as aircraft and airframe manufacturers, components, instruments, avionics and electrical system company professionals.

Also, you get to deal with lots of technical people and sales people strictly connected with aviation. If one wants to learn and improve his/her knowledge, this is the place. People are fun-loving, friendly, caring and very cooperative. They would go to any extent to help and assist others. Such goodness of the heart is not found in many other places."

## 2. What do you like or dislike about WAMA?

"I do like the friendships and camaraderie that exists between the membership and their readiness to help others in the aviation community and outside. In fact, I don't dislike a whole lot of things. However, there were some things that were omitted at the meetings that were fundamental to the organization. For example, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was totally ignored as if those who were there did not honor this great country. It's our responsibility to honor the flag at all of our meetings. Additionally, we used to recite a prayer before we started the meeting and had our meal. In fact, those

two items were in the by-laws of WAMA. I'm a man who respects the laws of this great nation, and it deeply hurts me to see this not being done for the past few years."

### **3. What do you like about our industry either socially or professionally?**

"Professionally, we are the organization with knowledge, training, and skills to support the flying machines. Since we are dealing with the aviation industry, we are socially well-respected. I might add that we are very well liked.

Every year, because of the latest and greatest technology that is available, manufacturers are compelled to use the best in the aviation industry to make their products. Just look back at 25 to 35 years where we were, and now where we are. One touch can take us anywhere and everywhere in these mechanical wonders known as aircraft."

### **4. Where do you see our industry going?**

"I see the industry going beyond leaps and bounds because these days, everyone needs air transportation. Corporate air travel has become to most people, a norm of travel with comfort, safety, and convenience."

### **5. With social media now the primary way of networking, do you feel organizations such as WAMA bring a benefit to the industry or you personally?**

"Yes, as social media is now the primary way of networking, organizations like WAMA will bring a benefit to the industry. From sharing different posts, being able to connect with people all around the world and networking with others in the aviation community, WAMA can utilize their social media services to bring a benefit to the industry."

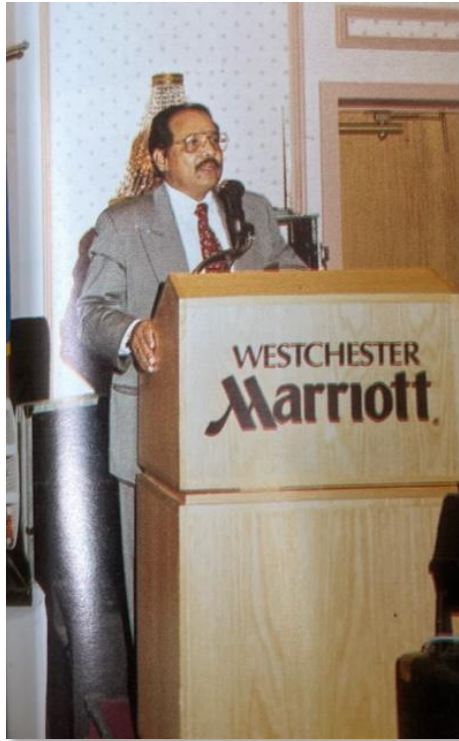
### **6. What can we do to recruit or bring in young professionals in aviation?**

"As individuals who are older, we do not change our values or compromise with the culture, but we act kindly to those who are younger to us and lead by example. We do our best to understand them, even though there are generational gaps between us. We adapt to the technological change to the best of our ability and show them that we old guys aren't that bad! To sum up, we recruit by leading by example, adapting to the technological changes and serving others."

### **7. What do you think the industry needs to improve?**

"Sharing their knowledge and experiences with like organizations and learn to become a real bridge builder between people and their respective organizations."





## **Thomas's Aircraft Supplies**

Established in 1977, and known as "The Single Source in Corporate Aviation", Thomas's Aircraft Supplies, Inc. is one of the leading parts suppliers to the corporate aviation industry.

Dedicated to meeting the needs of corporate flight departments, Thomas's provides its customers with a steady supply of support equipment, spare parts and rotables for all corporate aircraft. Our 10,000 sq. ft. facility houses a large selection of rotables and consumables for Gulfstream, Falcon, Bombardier, Hawker, Sikorsky S-76, Learjet, Cessna and King Air aircraft.

We are strategically located outside of Stewart International Airport, and our extensive inventory assures competitively priced deliveries anywhere in the world.

We are big enough to support our customers with all their aviation needs, yet small enough to serve them at any time and at any place. Thomas's believes that fast, efficient after-sales service and support to our valued friends is the key to our rapid growth and success.

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