

East Lansing Crystal Award Presented to Michigan Flyer

Remarks of East Lansing Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Triplett - April 25, 2013

Michigan Flyer/Ody Norkin

Ody Norkin has brought East Lansing closer to the rest of the world by creating the Michigan Flyer public transportation service. Michigan Flyer provides travelers with affordable and easy round-trip travel between East Lansing, Ann Arbor and the Detroit Metro Airport via motorcoach connections. Customers who utilize the service can park for \$2 per day in East Lansing and take a comfortable two-hour trip, with WIFI service included. Tens of thousands of customers have utilized Michigan Flyer since its creation and it has become well-known as an outstanding business with clean vehicles, always-on-time trips and above-and-beyond customer service.



Norkin had to overcome a number of obstacles in bringing Michigan Flyer to East Lansing and it is due in large part to his risk-taking, perseverance, hard work and vision that Michigan Flyer exists and is so successful today. He specifically chose downtown East Lansing for Michigan Flyer's home base, which has created a boost for the local economy by drawing tens of thousands of visitors to the heart of the East Lansing community. Michigan Flyer offers eight round trips between East Lansing and DTW and carries more than 100,000 passengers a year. On any given day, 50 to

100 Michigan Flyer customers who otherwise would likely not be strolling the streets of downtown East Lansing find themselves shopping in local East Lansing stores and dining in local East Lansing restaurants.

In addition to creating a new, easy and affordable option for travel to and from DTW, Michigan Flyer has also created a travel option with numerous environmental benefits. Michigan Flyer-AirRide passengers make a significant difference in energy conservation - decreasing pollution and easing congestion on highways. Each Michigan Flyer motorcoach exceeds EPA standards on air pollution, achieves high fuel economy (184 passenger miles per gallon) and has the capacity to remove 50 cars from the highway.

No other comparable service exists anywhere else in the state of Michigan. The local community is fortunate that Norkin overcame the odds to bring Michigan Flyer right here to the heart of East Lansing.