

Rob 'Waldo' Waldman Tells Township Officials That Everyone Needs 'Wingmen'

BY JENNIFER L. HAWBAKER / ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rob "Waldo" Waldman, also known as "The Wingman," learned a lot in the Air Force. He learned how to overcome claustrophobia to serve his country as a fighter pilot. He learned to set aside his fear of heights as he climbed into his F-16 jet, ready to speed through the atmosphere at Mach 2.

But the lessons didn't stop there. He also learned something that he shared with township officials at PSATS' Annual Educational Conference in April: Everyone needs wingmen — trusted partners in life who help you overcome obstacles and adapt to change. Whether you're trying to outmaneuver a surface-to-air missile in a supersonic jet or lead a township through a tough economy, the people around you, he said, are the key to your success.

"Every single day, we are being shot at by the missiles of fear and doubt and change," the Wingman said. "We can survive these missiles on our own, but I'm here to tell you we can win as a team. You see, I might have flown 65 combat missions strapped into an F-16 by myself, but I was never flying solo. I always had my wingmen, those men and women in the air and support units on the ground to help me not only to survive, but to win."

And he left the audience with a question to ponder.

"Who are your wingmen?" Waldman asked. "Who are your trusted and reliable partners in your townships and your personal and professional lives that you can turn to in order to dodge those missiles that are being shot at you as you try to serve your communities and the citizens of the great state of Pennsylvania and our country?" ♦

"Rule No. 1 of being
a wingman is **commitment.**"

"**Wingman**' is a state of mind.
It's not a job title. It's a **disciplined,**
determined, and **passionate** approach
toward doing your business and
living your lives every day."



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“Preparation leads to power and confidence.”



“It’s not the things that we do that we regret. It’s the things we don’t do that we regret.”

“What gives meaning to your mission?”

“Winners focus their energy and accept responsibility.”

“What are you doing every day to better prepare and ... rehearse your missions? What are you doing to build relationships with the wingmen in this room, back at home, in your personal and professional lives, so when your engine’s out, and you’ve got someone on your wings screaming for help, you can say, ‘Hey man, I’ve got you covered ... clear to land.’”

“Leaders listen. You’ve got to ask the right questions. You’ve got to connect.”

“I would challenge you to think about what’s holding you back.”

“When you raise your right hand and make a commitment to serve, you do. That’s what honor is about.”

“We survive on our own, but we win together.”

