The Viscardi Center

55th Annual Celebrity Sports Night

Thursday - May 19, 2022

Presented by Delta

Honoring

Ed Bastian
Corporate Leadership Honoree
CEO of Delta Air Lines

John McEnroe
Sportsman of the Year
Tennis Hall of Famer and Sports Commentator

Steve Serio
Roy Campanella Honoree
Co-Captain and Two-time Paralympic Gold Medalist in Wheelchair Basketball
The Viscardi Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, employing, and empowering children and adults with disabilities. It was founded in 1952 by disability advocate Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., who himself wore prosthetic legs and served as an advisor to eight U.S. presidents. Today, The Viscardi Center is a hub for leading-edge approaches, providing Pre-K through High School education, school-to-work youth transition services, day hab without walls, vocational training, employment placement, and digital accessibility services. Nationally, it connects innovators to self-employment success through its Disability Entrepreneurship Institute.

YOUR SUPPORT SUSTAINS VITAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

The pandemic presented The Viscardi Center with unimaginable challenges and long-lasting consequences in our ability to continue our life-changing work. Proceeds from Celebrity Sports Night will give us the flexibility to meet our most critical needs, safeguard and deliver programs/services in new ways, and strengthen technology supports.

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

Together, we can transform the lives of people with disabilities.

GIFTS OF EXPRESSION/NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Make a donation in recognition of someone important to you.

MAJOR GIFTS

Provide direct support to our facility, programs, and services.

PLANNED GIVING

Leave a lasting impression by including a bequest in your will or making The Viscardi Center a beneficiary of your charitable trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy.

For more information, please contact the Development Department at 516.465.1593.

Learn more or donate at ViscardiCenter.org
ED BASTIAN
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP HONOREE

Chief Executive Officer, Delta Air Lines

As CEO of Delta Air Lines, Ed Bastian leads a team of 75,000 global professionals that is building the world’s premier international airline, powered by a people-driven, customer-focused culture and spirit of innovation.

Under Ed’s leadership, Delta is transforming the air travel experience with generational investments in technology, aircraft, airport facilities and, most importantly, Delta’s employees worldwide. A 23-year Delta veteran, Ed has been a critical leader in Delta’s long-term strategy and champion of putting Delta’s shared values of honesty, integrity, respect, perseverance and servant leadership at the core of every decision.

Since being named Delta’s CEO in May 2016, Ed has expanded Delta’s leading position as the world’s most reliable airline while growing its global footprint and enhancing the customer experience in the air and on the ground. During his tenure as CEO, Delta has become the world’s most awarded airline, having been named the No. 1 airline by J.D. Power; Wall Street Journal’s top U.S. airline; the top-ranking airline in Fortune’s World’s Most Admired Companies; among TIME100’s Most Influential Companies; a Glassdoor Best Place to Work; and more.

In 2018, Fortune magazine named Ed among “The World’s 50 Greatest Leaders,” and in 2019, he was elected to the membership of the Council on Foreign Relations. Most recently, Ed was awarded for his Executive Leadership in FlightGlobal’s 2021 Airline Strategy Awards and named among the Top 10 CEOs of 2021 in Glassdoor’s Employees’ Choice Awards.

Ed’s values-based leadership propelled the airline to become the industry leader and a trusted global brand, guided by empathy, humanity and devotion to service, which has served Delta well in good times and bad. He has served as a Delta leader and steered the company through the most challenging periods of the company’s history, including 9/11, bankruptcy and COVID-19.

As the world emerges from the pandemic, Delta is leading the industry in the recovery, harnessing the power of innovation and Delta’s people-focused culture to set the course for the future of travel. This post-COVID transformation will reshape the customer experience using the latest technology and be powered by our people.

When asked to sum up his job in five words, Ed’s response is: “Taking care of our people.” The answer reflects his leadership philosophy, which is based on the “virtuous circle” – if you take care of your people, they take care of your customers, whose business and loyalty allow you to reward your investors.

Ed grew up in Poughkeepsie, New York, and graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He lives in Atlanta and is deeply involved in his faith, family and community.
Steve Serio is a paralympic athlete from Long Island who acquired his disability following spinal surgery when he was 11 months old. As a co-captain of the USA Men's National Wheelchair Basketball Team, he led his teammates to their first Paralympic gold medal since 1988 at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games, and again at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

Steve started his wheelchair basketball career with the LI Lightning, the only competitive junior wheelchair basketball team in New York. The team won its first National Championship in 2005, and that same year Steve played at the Australian Junior National Games for the Disabled in Sydney.

He went on to play point guard for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was named 2nd Team All-American in both the 2005–2006 and 2006–2007 seasons. At the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament at Oklahoma State University in 2008, Steve led the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to a NIWBA Championship over the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Steve plays on the U.S. Paralympics Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team, which came in second place at the World Championships in Amsterdam in 2006. In 2007, the U.S. National Team won a gold medal at the Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Steve made his Paralympic debut in 2008 in Beijing, China.

He currently plays for the New York Rolling Knicks in the NWBA Championship Division.
JOHN MCENROE
SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR
*International Tennis Hall of Famer*

John McEnroe is one of the most successful male tennis champions in the history of the sport. A gifted athlete who honed his skills as a teenager at Nassau County tennis academies and clubs, he became the youngest man ever to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1977. John attained the world No. 1 ranking in both singles and doubles, capping off his career with 77 singles and 78 doubles titles—the highest men's combined total of the Open Era.

John remains the only male player to win more than 70 titles in the men's singles and doubles categories. Between the US Open and Wimbledon, he won seven Grand Slam singles titles and nine Grand Slam men's doubles titles. He won one Grand Slam mixed doubles title at the French Open.

He also broke records in year-end tournaments, winning eight singles and seven doubles titles. Three of his winning singles year-end championships were at the Masters Grand Prix and five were at the World Championship Tennis (WCT) Finals. He was named the ATP Player of the Year and the ITF World Champion in 1981, 1983, and 1984.

John contributed to five Davis Cup titles for the U.S. and later was team captain. He has stayed active, competing in senior events on the ATP Champions Tour. He works as a TV commentator and performs with his rock group, the Johnny Smyth Band.
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We have proudly supported

**Celebrity Sports Night**

for many years, as the funds it raises sustain the critical programs and services The Viscardi Center and Henry Viscardi School provide to **educate, employ and empower** children and adults with disabilities so they can all achieve their dreams.

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OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THESE VISCARDI FRIENDS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS

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Triple Crown Charity Fundraising
Western & Southern Open
TONIGHT’S ATHLETES & CELEBRITIES

THANK YOU FOR COMING AND GIVING US ONE OF THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS … YOUR TIME!

Victoria Arlen
Paralympic Gold Medalist Swimmer & ESPN Host

Harry Carson
New York Giants

Ashley Hill
National Karate Champion

Tokey Hill
World Karate Champion

John Nitti
NY Jets

CJ Papa
Fox News Radio

John Schmitt
NY Jets

Art Shamsky
NY Mets

Mike Wasko
Olympic Bobsledder
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2022 SENIOR CLASS VISCARDI COUGAR WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PLAYERS!

Nicole Carbone  Petros D'Amico  Jeremiah Pena
Nick Daniello  Antonio Pugliese  Teddy Ram
Enrique Mendoza  Hunter Tobias

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DEDICATED STUDENTS, PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, AND STAFF MEMBERS WHO GENEROUSLY SHARED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO MAKE THIS EVENING’S PROGRAM A SUCCESS.

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Email DAservices@viscardicenter.org or visit ViscardiCenter.org/digital-accessibility-services

Leaving Business on the Table Because Your Digital Content Isn’t Accessible to All?

Making the world more inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities is at the core of The Viscardi Center’s mission. The Viscardi Center is a Long Island-based nonprofit focused on educating, employing and empowering children and adults with disabilities.
Save the date and plan on joining us for these 2022-2023 events that provide critical support to programs and services dedicated to educating, employing, and empowering children and adults with disabilities and veterans, so we can all discover the love of learning, the power of work, the freedom of independent living, and the self-confidence to fulfill our dreams!

Golf Outing – September 19 – Mill River Golf Club
A round of golf, on-course enhancements, and dinner. Visit viscardicenter.org/golf for details.

Reach for a Star Luncheon – November 15 – Crest Hollow Country Club
Our Spring Luncheon is now a Fall Luncheon! Join us for an elegant lunch and memorable entertainment at Crest Hollow Country Club. Details will be announced this summer.

Celebrity Sports Night – May 18, 2023 – The Viscardi Center
Stay tuned for details on next year’s event!

For more information, email LTibbals@viscardicenter.org or call (516) 465-1595.

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