



'Plane' spoken: Aviators Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan describe their pioneering flight.

enter a decade of full competition, he emphasized.

"We expect that there is going to be the entry of new and powerful competitors into a business that was once our exclusive domain. And some of these competitors are going to be powerful companies that previously really weren't identified with the traditional areas of telephone and telecommunications.

"So I think your meeting theme, America's Best, sums up our conclusion that GTE can't afford to be anything less than the best. And

with the help of achievers like you, that's exactly what we intend to be," Jim told the audience.

"What in essence I'm really saying is that the Winning Connection is working, actions are under-way to meet the goals that we have set, but there's an awful lot left to be done," he said. One of the most crucial of TELOPS' goals is GTEDS' development of high-quality, uniform, core information services for the TELCOs, Jim added.

"I can tell you that your

achievements are a point of pride, not only in GTEDS, but in TELOPS as a whole," he told the Personal Best recipients. "And I think what you've done is evidence that you have that quality — that you care about the customer. And the type of individual excellence that you represent is the key to success in any business."

High-Flying Dreams

Dick Rutan, Jeana Yeager, Charles Kuralt and Cathy Rigby all talked about the importance of setting goals and solving problems.

Dick and Jeana dreamed of flying nonstop around the world without refueling. And through their own perseverance, they made their dream a reality.

"I like to tell people that when you set a goal for yourself, a lot of people underestimate their own personal capabilities. What you are actually capable of is far greater than what you ever imagined or ever dreamed," Dick told the Personal Best audience.

"From what I understand, this is a very select group of people, and a group of people that knows exactly what it means to work hard and enjoy the success of hard work. But something that is even more important than that is the reward you get for something that you have accomplished personally — to set a goal and accomplish it."

In 1981, Dick, his brother, Burt Rutan, and Jeana formulated their

plan to fly around the world without landing or refueling in midair, a trip no one had attempted before.

They faced many obstacles before their epic flight in 1986, but they overcame them all, the most crucial of which was staying alive in a cramped cockpit no bigger than a telephone booth.

“What you can achieve — no matter who you are or what walk of life you’re in — what you can achieve is only limited by what you can dream,” Dick concluded.

American Problem-Solvers

Like Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, veteran CBS newsman Charles Kuralt believes America is a nation of problem-solvers.

“You know you wouldn’t be here, gathered together, if you were not problem-solvers yourself,” he told the Personal Best Award winners.

“When I think of Americans, I think of problem-solvers. It amazes me that even in a big, complex,