Flight Safety Foundation, in a ceremony in Singapore, was presented the Joseph S. Murphy Industry Service Award by Air Transport World (ATW), the airline management magazine. The award is named in honor of the magazine’s founder.

“Tonight we honor an organization that has ensured that aviation safety is at the forefront around the world,” said ATW Senior Editor Aaron Karp. “For 60 years, the not-for-profit Flight Safety Foundation has served as an independent voice unconstrained by geography or industry boundaries, providing the global aviation business with a neutral forum to discuss and learn best practices and find solutions to problems with only one goal: reducing the risk of accidents.

ATW salutes the Foundation not just for its laudable and lengthy list of past achievements but also for its ongoing and future effort to bring awareness to serious safety issues around the globe.”

William R. Voss, FSF president and CEO, accepted the award, saying, “We all have a lot to celebrate today. We have an industry that has achieved extraordinary levels of safety around the world. And I have to say that it is quite an honor to have the contributions of FSF recognized here today. But I have to share that honor with 1,200 members of the Foundation that make that work possible, including many of you in the room here today.”

Voss discussed several FSF initiatives. “First of all, a new and sort of activist role for us. We have great victories in aviation safety, but the victories aren’t universal. There are places around the world that are still struggling to do well. I spend a lot of time working with those people.

And everywhere I go, I find heroes, I find people who know exactly what needs to be done, people who will do anything to try to achieve further improvements in safety. But they are challenged. Often they are not allowed to do what they know is necessary due to problems of political will or resources, even commercial constraints. So there’s one thing we all have to do as an industry, and one thing you’ll see us do at the Foundation, and that is to go to bat for these people to make sure they get the opportunity and the support they need to do what they know needs to be done.”

Turning to the growing shortage of trained personnel, Voss said, “Something very important for us as a Foundation is to have a consciousness, an awareness paying attention to the system, so that if at some point we go beyond what is possible — we start overreaching — we’ll have early warning systems that go off, indicators that say, ‘it’s time to pull back to make sure we maintain the level of safety we’ve achieved over these decades.’”

Flight Safety Foundation
President and CEO
William R. Voss
(right) accepts the Foundation’s award from Air Transport World Senior Editor Aaron Karp.