

LOST TEDDY BEAR REUNITED WITH OWNER AT MILWAUKEE MITCHELL
5-year-old Ezekiel, Teddy reunited at MKE after three months apart

MILWAUKEE (FEBRUARY 15, 2021) – The viral teddy bear left behind at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport has been reunited with its owner, 5-year-old Ezekiel Burnett.

The stuffed teddy bear was turned into MKE’s Airport Information Desk back in January. After a series of social media posts, the bear quickly captured the attention of 4 million people across the globe who joined together in an effort to get him home. It wasn’t long until the bear’s family saw one of the viral posts. MKE, along with Southwest Airlines, flew the family to Milwaukee for the special reunion on Tuesday.



“This moment today is one of the many ways where MKE is able to show how we genuinely care for our passengers,” said Airport Director Brian Dranzik. “We’re very honored to be a part of this special moment. Small moments like this, along with the bigger ones, are why we support our hometown airport.”

The family had been flying from Milwaukee home to Texas over the Thanksgiving holiday when Ezekiel accidentally tossed his bear high enough up to land in the rafters. The family had to board minutes later, and Ezekiel left devastated without Teddy. The Airport posted the teddy bear on social media shortly after locating him and he quickly captured hearts across the globe.

“The staff at MKE Airport and Southwest Airlines have been amazing through this entire experience,” said David Burnett, Ezekiel’s father. “And this would not have been possible without the millions of people who commented and shared. My wife jumped out of her chair whenever she saw the bear on the internet.”

Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport (MKE) currently offers nonstop flights to 35+ destinations coast-to-coast, and more than 200 international destinations are available with just one connection. MKE is served by Air Canada, Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, Spirit, Sun Country, and United. The complete list of nonstop cities can be found at mitchellairport.com.

MKE is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The Airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the Airport's capital improvements or for its day to-day operation.

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