Not Your Average Traveling Salesman (Solution)

The clues all hint at a specific US president (or president pair in the case of Eagle & Evergreen) through their nicknames, code names or related quotes. Each of those presidents or pairs has an airport named after them (e.g. DCA is named after Ronald Reagan, who's code name was Rawhide). The highlighted letter of each of the 3-letter airport codes then reveals the word "DIJKSTRA".

In a final step, related to the flavour text, applying Dijkstra's algorithm to find the shortest path from DCA to IAH in the map on the right and putting the letters next to each airport in the right order reveals "EDSGER", Dijkstra's first name. The full name "Edsger Dijkstra" is the answer to the puzzle.

