



Aerie News

The Eagles Aerie Publication of the U•S Airways Soaring Eagles

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Captain John Davis

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Soaring Eagles – It's been a little over three months since our October reunion in TPA. Your Board finalized its member roster after voting to accept Joe Kernan's offer to temporarily fill the vacant position of Secretary (until the October reunion).

Soaring Eagles member and retired Flight Attendant, Ms. Judy Schmidt, was asked to be and has agreed to serve as one of the four Board advisors, joining Bob Knapp, Bill Leefe, and Ron Natalie. The sentiments to invite Judy to become an advisor were positive and unanimous. Her leadership skills are superb and she will be a fine addition.

Time passes quickly, and our October 26, 27, 28, 2018 annual reunion will be upon us. Let's try for a record attendance.

Besides showing up ourselves, try recalling some of your fellow pilots and flight attendants who were part of your fun memories. Then contact them with a warm hello and an invitation to TPA in October. Lost touch or need help in finding someone? Maybe your Board can assist.

Remember, two years ago, with a lot of help from the Soaring Eagles and others among our pilot group, we located about 100 "missing" pilots and surviving spouses who were recipients of the Jim Stephens, Dick Mahoney, and attorney J.C. Nickens class action lawsuit payments on the lump sum unpaid interest. The result of that "search and find" effort, while nowhere close to the success of the lawsuit, was still pretty cool.

Please call or email one of your Board members if needed, and maybe we can help steer you to that friend or two from flying the line. Let's make this the year we reconnect with some of our long time – but not seen for many years – friends. Like what we once did, time still does – flies

TREASURER'S REPORT
Captain Paul Sturpe

The former treasurers have left the Soaring Eagles' accounts in perfect order. The most important change this year is the date that your dues are due. Previously your annual dues were due on your birthday. That made extra work for your Secretary/Editor so the constitution was changed at the most recent Soaring Eagles convention. Dues for 2018 are now due by January 31 instead of on your birthday. This will take some getting used to. Don't forget to send a note along with your dues telling us what you have been up to. News from members is one of my favorite parts of the Aerie.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE
Captain Joe Kernan

Fellow Eagles: Writing to you as Secretary of the Soaring Eagles was the furthest thing on my mind when we left Tampa after our most recent Convention/Reunion. I believe a little explanation is in order for you to fully understand how I happen to be in this position. As the Chairman of the Nominating Committee one of my responsibilities prior to the 2017 Convention was to come up with a slate of nominees for service on your executive committee with the assistance of Capt. Bill Leefe, and Capt. Bob Knapp. About a month before the Convention, Bill Kingston announced that after over seven years of service to the Soaring Eagles as Secretary that he wished to step down from that position. The board accepted Bill's request with regret, and I set about the search for a suitable replacement for Bill. Based on the extraordinary job that the DC9Guy had done, I knew that finding a replacement for Bill would be difficult. During the process I urged Capt. Jeff Davis, Tom Davis's son to consider accepting that position. After some thought on the subject Jeff agreed to stand for that position, and was elected during the business meeting on Oct. 29, 2017. In early January it became obvious that for a number of reasons that Jeff Davis would be unable to fulfill the duties of Secretary, and he so informed President John Davis. For a couple of weeks after that we / I were searching for yet another volunteer to step up to serve as Secretary. The more I thought about the subject, the more I began to feel responsible as I had been the one to convince Jeff to accept the nomination. I volunteered to fill out the unexpired term that Jeff Davis had been previously elected to serve. Your Executive Board voted to appoint me to serve as Secretary until the 2018 Convention where elections will be held to fill the position for two years as called for by the Constitution & By-Laws. Can I replicate the job that Bill Kingston did? Probably not, but I will do my level best to keep you informed in a timely matter on issues that are important to our group. Past President Milburn has been helping me work out the kinks in our email system, and has been a tremendous asset. You may be aware that President Milburn established the Soaring Eagles website (usairsoaringeagles.org) which is an excellent communications tool, and I urge every member to visit the website frequently to get the latest information available.

Chairman Schofield's View
Seth "Butch" Schofield

To my fellow employees:

Having had the opportunity to attend the annual Soaring Eagles reunion 2 of the last 3 years, I can attest to the special time had by the attendees. Seeing and being with old friends and sharing wonderful stories and memories is very special. It is hard for me to imagine why more of our former Eagles do not take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Our present Officers spend untold hours attempting to keep the group informed and current on Eagles activities. Their planning for the Annual Reunion is very time consuming and done with the greatest care to assure everyone has a great experience. I hope that each of you reading this article will give consideration to attending the 2018 Reunion. You will not be disappointed. See you in Tampa!

Seth "Butch" Schofield



YBOR City Bus Trip

The Soaring Eagles Board arranged a bus trip to famous Columbia restaurant located in the historic YBOR City section of Tampa. This presented a nice break for several of our reunion attendees. Pictured above are Judi Todd, Judy Schmidt and Sandy Lewis. Those Flight attendants who participated in their 2017 reunion said they had an enjoyable visit and do plan to come back again to the Reunion weekend.

Flight Attendants, the Soaring Eagles welcome your participation and membership. The Eagles want to have you involved in remembering the success and friendship of our airline days.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT BOARD ADVISOR

Judy Schmidt

I would like to thank the Soaring Eagles Board for inviting the Flight Attendants to become members! I attended the reunion in Tampa with Shevy Graybill and Judi Todd. It really was a good time seeing old friends and making new ones.

I am now encouraging Flight Attendants to become members and I have had a very good response. I spoke recently with a pilot friend of mine and had a positive response from him as well. Every few months we have Flight Attendant luncheons in Pittsburgh. I will be attending a luncheon on February 21 and plan on passing out applications.

I would like to thank the Board for giving me the opportunity to serve as a Board Advisor. I am happy and honored to be a member!

Sincerely,

Judy Schmidt



FLOWN WEST



Captain Carl Robert Fisherkeller

Carl Robert Fisherkeller, 94, captained his last flight as he pulled the nose up and put away the landing gear leaving Stratford Court in Palm Harbor Florida to God's Place. Departure was 6:00 p.m. December 28, 2017. Born January 21, 1923, in Springfield IL of Carl A. and Beatrice Baum Fisherkeller he was the oldest of six siblings. A Graduate of Springfield HS 1940 it appeared he was going to be a bandleader as he loved music and played saxophone and clarinet. Like so many of the greatest generation, WWII changed his plans. He enlisted in the Navy and became a flight instructor at Pensacola, Florida he helped many to get their wings. Later he flew the Berlin Airlift. He met a dimpled beautiful small town Franklinton, NC girl in Atlanta during the war. Geraldine, the love of his life, left September 30, 2015. They shared 70 years of marriage and had three children, Bob Wilson in Springfield, MO, JoAnn Pompeii in Safety Harbor, FL, and Mark Fisherkeller in Willington, CT. Carl started with All American Airways that became Allegheny Airlines which ultimately became USAir. He and Geri lived in Pittsburgh, PA. In retirement they lived in Sarasota. His three children. Son, Bob wife, Celeste; grandchildren, Robert, Joey, Christy, Mikie, Katie, Ryan and Connor; and nine great-grandchildren. Nurse practitioner daughter, JoAnn; grandchildren, Jesse, Jozi; and four great-grandchildren. Physician son, Mark, wife Karen; grandchildren, Rachel and Will. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:00 a.m., Friday morning, February 2, at St. Martha Catholic Church, 200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, Florida. Interment with military honors will be held 1:30 p.m., Friday afternoon, February 2, at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72, Sarasota, Florida .

Captain Bill Nolen

Captain Bill Nolen passed away in July 2017. No additional information.

Captain Marwood "Woody" Clauson passed away August 25, 2017 after a long illness.

Captain Jim Cameron

Retired U•S Airways Captain Jim Cameron Memorial Service 1/29/2018. Captain Cameron passed away unexpectedly on 24 January, 2018. A memorial service to commemorate his life is scheduled on Monday, 29 January at 1100, at the First Presbyterian Church, 3940 27-1/2 Road, Grand Junction CO 81506. (27-1/2 Road originates approximately 27.5 miles East of the Utah border, off I-70, exit 31.) Memorials may be given to the Wasatch & District Pipe Band (2335 West 4195 South Taylorsville, Utah) or to the Evalynn Grace Cameron college fund via the Cameron family @ 1112 Sundial Rd Grand Junction, CO 81505. For additional information, please contact: (rjclopper@comcast.net or larrycameron@cfl.rr.com.)

Captain Mike Crump has passed away. No further details at this time.



Captain Keith A. Springer - June 21, 1936 - December 20, 2017

Keith, born to Minnie and Orville Springer in Williston, ND. His family moved to Washington State after the start of WWII, moving to Spokane in 1947. Graduating from North Central High School in 1953 he attended Eastern Washington University, earning a BA in Education in 1959. He taught at Audubon Elementary and John Shaw Middle School where he also coached boys baseball. During this time he met fellow teacher, Peggy Ruff, marrying in 1963. They moved east to pursue Keith's career in aviation and started a family in Syracuse, NY, eventually moving to Fredericksburg, VA and back to Spokane in 1984. They divorced in 2006. Trained to fly in the Air Force, Keith progressed from private plane owner to charter pilot and into a 26 year career flying for commercial airlines. He retired at the end of 1993 as a Captain for USAir. Survived by sons, Kyle of Spokane and Rolf (Simon Barnes) of Seattle, brother, Wayne (Elsie) of Spokane, sister-in-law, Sondra of Scottsdale, AZ, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and older brother, Larry. The family wishes to thank the staff at The Academy - Assisted Living for their patience and care. A Remembrance will be held at Heritage Funeral Home, 508 N. Government Way, Spokane at 11am on Monday, January 29.



Stephen David Cole - May 8, 1952 - January 7, 2018

Steve was born on May 8, 1952 in Minden, Louisiana. When Steve was 15, he and his family moved to Longview, Texas. He continued to excel in sports throughout high school, playing football, baseball and basketball. After graduating from Longview High School in 1970, Steve continued his love of football, playing one season at Kilgore College. In 1971, he was honored to receive his congressional appointment to the United States Naval Academy. It was there that Steve's dream of becoming an aviator was put into motion. During his time at Annapolis, he studied engineering, played football and forged enduring bonds with his fellow midshipmen. Steve proudly graduated with the Class of 1975. Upon completion of flight school, Steve embarked on his career as a Naval aviator, serving actively for more than 11 years. This would include three deployments around the globe and serving as an instructor at Miramar in San Diego, California. He flew the E-2 Hawkeye until he retired from active duty in 1986. Steve continued his Naval career through the reserves and retired as a 20-year Commander. Along the way he also became the father to three loved children - Stephen Jr., Andrew and Sara. In March of 1987, Steve began his commercial aviation career with Piedmont Airlines in Charlotte, North Carolina. He completed 30 years of service and officially retired as an American Airlines First Officer on May 8, 2017. He met his beloved Carol in July of 1991 and married on April 22, 1995. Steve's Celebration of Life service will be Saturday, January 20th at 11:11 a.m. at Blair Road UMC, 9135 Blair Road, Mint Hill, NC 28227. Interment will be a private service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Blair Road Missions, including the Haiti mission team, Appalachia Service Project, the Blair Road Repair Team and Levine Cancer Institute.

Captain Donald Bullerdick passed away November 19, 2017 in St Cloud, Florida

Captain Harold Vernon Spruill

Virginia Beach - 85, passed away at home from complications following a stroke on Feb. 6th. Harold served as an airline captain for Piedmont Airlines and United Airlines. He also served in the Air force and was assigned to SAC. Harold was preceded in death by two sons, Gary Vernon Spruill and Harold Scott Spruill. He leaves behind a son, Jeffery Spruill, two daughters, Donna Assion and Susan Light, two sons-in-law.

Captain Serge Kohudic

Serge suffered a stroke and did not survive it. There will be a memorial service announced later. Remembering Serge Kohudic In early 1966, Serge and I were new hire roommates based in New York with Mohawk Airlines. Our landlord was Capt Chet Jackubowski's brother. We were soon treated like family members. Fond memories from over 50 years ago flying piston powered Convairs.....no autopilot!, In the beginning of the Mohawk pilots' strike, Keith and I were assigned picket duty at Syracuse Airport. Since he was a conversationalist, the 4 hour sessions in 20 degree temperatures were not so grueling! Because we had no income, we became food stamp eligible and on occasion we would pool our resources and have family roast beef dinners., Mike Solensky

Donnie F. Benner - September 17, 1937 - January 19, 2018

WINDHAM, NH - Donnie F. Benner, 80, of Windham, N.H., passed away Friday, January 19, 2018, in the Elliot Hospital, Manchester, N.H., surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Junction, Texas, on September 17, 1937, a daughter of the late Frank and Ruby (Bundick) Jackson. In her younger years, Donnie worked as a Secretary at Bergstrom AFB in Travis County, Texas. She is survived by her beloved husband, William Benner of Windham; one daughter, Lori Ann Benner-Andrus and her husband, Brett of Kingston, N.H.; one brother, Vernon Jackson of Tow, Texas; one sister, Frankie Leamons of Tow, Texas; as well as many nieces, nephews and close family friends. She was sadly predeceased by her son, William Benner in 2001. There are no calling hours. Following cremation, a Celebration of Life will be held by the family on Saturday, February 3, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. in the Hampstead Congregational Church, Main Street, Hampstead, NH. Burial will be in the spring at Atkinson Cemetery, Atkinson, N.H.

Captain David Linzinmeir February 13, 1931 – December 27, 2017

David was born in Marysville, OH February 13th, 1933 the third of four children to Louis and Lucille Bishop Linzinmeir. Family was everything to David with aviation, fishing and Ohio Buckeyes close behind. As a youth he paid for flying lessons by trapping and selling furs from the streams of post-depression Ohio and by stacking seed bags for Scott Seed Co. A born stick and rudder aviator he soloed a J-3 Cub in less than four hours at 15 years old.

Graduating High School he joined the U.S. Navy, based on aircraft carriers, Guantanamo Bay and French Morocco.

David was hired by Lake Central Airline in 1959, flying DC-3s and eventually Allegheny Airline and USAir, moving to the Boeing 757/767 flying the North Atlantic to Paris, London and Frankfurt.

He met the "Delta Queen" Carolyn Summers passing the Delta ticket counter in Cincinnati Airport. They married in 1963 and had two children, Lisa Linzinmeir Whitlock and Jake Linzinmeir.

As the age 60 rule forced mandatory retirement David grudgingly left the cockpit. He moved to Kauai raising Meyer Lemons, and apple bananas. David passed away peacefully at age 84 December 27th, 2017. He is survived by his two children, grandchildren Carolyn Rose Whitlock,

David Warren Whitlock, sisters Beth Rauch and Jean Gebhardt, brother John and many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made to the AOPA Flight Training Scholarships www.aopa.org

News

Captains Ron and Ron Metzger cap off 70 combined years of flying

Lining American Flight 2555 from MCO for approach to DFW 17R on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 17, 8767 Captain Ronald Metzger devoted his concentration to a safe, routine landing. This would be his final landing as a commercial pilot. Once at the gate, he could shift his attention to celebrating his 39-year career.

American will average more than 10 retirement flights a week in 2018, each representing a pilot's storied career. But the story behind this particular flight originated in 1989. Ron was the First Officer on a USAir B737 from LAX to PIT, sharing the retirement flight with a different Captain Ron Metzger - his dad.

"It was a four-day trip," the senior Captain Ron said about his own retirement flight. "He [my son] let me have all the take-offs and landings." At the time he was capping off a 32-year career that began with Lake Central Airlines in 1957, which merged into Allegheny Airlines in 1968. Son Ronald began flying with Allegheny Airlines in 1979, the same year Allegheny changed its name to USAir. Their overlapping careers span 60 years, with more than 70 years of combined flying. This time it was Dad's turn to celebrate his son's achievements, who rode in the main cabin as honorary First Officer.

Prior to Flight 2555's final approach to DFW, Captain Ron (the son) said in his customer PA:

"This is my retirement flight. My family is on board. But what I'd like to emphasize is that my father is on board, and he too is an airline pilot. He began his career in 1957 flying DC-3s [an aircraft] that was really the foundation of the airline industry when it began. He had a very proud career of 32 years when he retired in 1989. On his [retirement] flight I was his First Officer, which in itself is pretty special and rather unique. So now let me fast-forward 28 years from 1989 to now. He's riding with me - so that too is special. I just wanted to emphasize what is a human-interest story at least for our family. It doesn't happen very often - but it is happening today. So I just want to thank him for being with me for the end of my career, like I was with him. And to thank my family for joining me and sharing with me this special moment."

Customers responded with a round of congratulatory applause. And Captain Ron (Dad) Metzger sat back in his seat, trying not to let it show too much, but wearing the smile of a very proud father.



Left: 1989 - B737 Captain Ron Metzger's retirement flight with his son as First Officer

Right: 2018- B767 Captain Ron Metzger's retirement flight with his father as honorary First Officer

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE METZGERS
FOR THEIR COMBINED YEARS OF AIRLINE SERVICE**

Captain Al Mondell

I recently climbed Mount McKinley, I won the Boston Marathon, I completed the Ironman 1st, I swam the English Channel, I entered the NASA Pro, I re-enlisted in the United States Marine Corps - but -

“REALLY, I AIN’T DONE NOTHING”!, *Al Mondell*

Captain Louis R. Nelson

After going through three motor homes driving back and forth from the East Coast to the West Coast several times via the Northern route and also the Southern route, up into Canada and down to Mexico, retired to Florida and switched to boats. 32 years in the Keys, went through three boats enjoying all the Keys had to offer scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing and all the fine dining Key West had to offer. Hurricane Irma came ashore on Cudjoe Key at mile marker 23 wiping out not only Louis and Carol's home but over 100 others causing extensive damage to the area. Louis and Carol had a second home on the West Coast of Florida which is now the permanent home. 12400 Park Boulevard #326, Seminole, FL 33772. Phone (305) 304-7654 *Louis Nelson*

Captain Joe LoVecchio

Thanks Paul for stepping up to assume the duties of Treasurer. As I recall you were never one to shrink from additional duties. After sampling retirement I needed to go back to work so I am working as an Airbus A-320 Instructor for Jetblue in Orlando. After 31 ½ years of living in base I find myself commuting to Orlando. The job is great except for the commute. I tried the corporate gig for a while, getting a Lear 60 type rating working for Venture Jet in Lancaster, PA. I would consider doing it again if I could fly a G-650, BBJ or Falcon 7X, dream on. I'm going through the usual health care issues including Prostrate Cancer. Bothering many Doctors with QRH type contingency and emergency plans. I find it difficult to give up control but have advice of physicians who are close friends as well as my FAA Medical Examiner and will have robotic surgery at Johns Hopkins. I am very proud of my association with my brothers and sisters of the Soaring Eagles and look forward to seeing you at a reunion. *Joe LoVecchio*

Captain Gerald Milburn

Still in the Daytona Beach area (Port Orange), FL. Been alone now for 2 ½ years. Its difficult but we play the hand we are dealt. I have been involved with you, “the Eagles” and it has been rewarding. I always believed you were/are the best pilot group in the business. All you have to do is reflect on what we were able to accomplish. We were fortunate to have the leaders we had, Ed Colodny and Seth “Butch” Schofield. Come to the convention / reunion, renew your old friendships and enjoy. Hoping to see you in person. *Gerry Milburn*

Captain Dan Eismon

Thanks for everything you folks do. Please delete the phone number (931) 967-9889. I only have a cell now (931) 047-0282. *Dan Eismon*

Captain Dan Friel

Hello: Will turn 80 in July. Selling my airplanes. Still with the girlfriend. Health is good. Will see you in Tampa. My best wishes to all. *Dan A. Friel*

Mr. David Price

Please find my check enclosed for yearly dues. I am truly honored to be a part of the Soaring Eagles. *Dave Price*

Captain Thomas H. Block

We have been on our horse ranch just outside Spruce Creek fly-in just outside Daytona Beach, Fla. For 15 years now-boy tempus does indeed fugate. Still doing horse boarding and horse motel guests, including the Budweiser Clydesdales (10 horses, three semis, a staff of 6 to 8 handlers) whenever they are in central Florida. We also get the Wells Fargo team to stay with us periodically, among others. Its fun having them show up. I have been quite busy with my audio book narrating business which began six years ago. Early last year I became an approved "Audible Approved Narrator", and to date I've done 70 plus books, many of them aviation and/or military action/adventure. Since my afternoon naps have highest priority (getting old is not for sissies, even for airline pilots). I keep my audio book periods to three hours a day or less. If you would like to see photos of the Clydesdales at our place, or info on any of it, we have two websites www.flyingB-Ranch.com for the ranch/horse motel operation and www.ThomasBlockNovels.com, for the novels, audio book stuff and lots of aviation pictures! Best Wishes to all. *Tom Block*

Captain Charles Wood

Thank you for your service to the Soaring Eagles. Enclosed are my membership dues. I retired August 11th with my final flight from LGA to CLT with wife Susie, sister Elizabeth and #1 son Gary. A fine ending to 30 years of flying with USAir. Sue and I are enjoying retirement doing just what we want and traveling around to see family and friends. I feel a little lost sometimes and miss flying the big jets, the views and fine people. We plan to stay in Denver, N.C. *Charles Wood*

Captain Rick Graves

It has been a busy year starting with me working as a doorman for the Florida State House during session. It was a great experience and I will be doing it again this year. If you are in Tallahassee during legislative session be sure to look me up and say hello. We had some highs and lows this year. Starting with lows, both Marcy and I have had cardiac issues but we are doing well. I lost both my Aunt and Uncle within seven months of each other. As for the highs our oldest granddaughter got her Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, got engaged and married and got a full time position (no more 7 day work weeks). We did some traveling to visit family and

friends and spent time vacationing at the beach. Wish everyone a happy and healthy 2018. *Rick and Marcy Graves*

Captain John Davis

2017 a good year in general. Grandkids (Blaise 16, Gabriella 15) still an important part of our lives and greatly appreciate their parents' sharing them with us for these many (but quickly passing) years. They, Joan and I went to Gettysburg in July for two days, then to DC for four days. Visited the National Air & Space Museum, walked the National Mall viewing the Vietnam Wall (which I had never seen up close), and the statues of Lincoln and Jefferson. Visited the interesting, privately owned, International Spy Museum in DC.

Spent a few hours at Arlington Cemetery including the Kennedy Eternal Flame and the deeply impressive to all four of us Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We watched that twice. Enjoyed revisiting with old friends at the annual Soaring Eagles October reunion in TPA. Butch Schofield gave another excellent historical recounting of part of the 1990s at US Airways.

I'm currently in the midst of the 2018 tax season at Jackson Hewitt. My thanks to the other Soaring Eagles officers for 2018. Past president Gerry Milburn's excellent and informative website has been a big help in communication. *John Davis*

Captain Ed and Judy Campbell

Ed is enjoying retirement and seems constantly busy. He really doesn't know when he had time to work. Since retiring he has taught our son Kyle to fly, has gotten his I.A. and has completed many house projects. This past year he has completed restoring a Bucker Jungmann along with our son Kyle. They flew it to Oshkosh where they won a Grand Champion Gold Lindy award in their class of aircraft. The next project will be an RV-7.

I, Judy, am still flying the A-330 for new American Airlines. It's nice to have Ed at home to provide me limo service to and from the airport for every trip. We enjoy reading about everyone when we receive the Soaring Eagles news. Best wishes for everyone in 2018. *Ed and Judy Campbell*



WEBSITE ADDRESS: usairsoaringeagles.org

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