

# Aerie News

The Eagles Aerie News of the **USAir** Soaring  
Eagles

First Quarter 2021

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Secretary	Judi Todd
Past President	John Davis

Advisors to the Board – Bill Leefe, Bob Knapp, Butch Schofield, Ran Natalie

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(276) 632-9941

Captain Joe Kernan

[Joekernandc9@yahoo.com](mailto:Joekernandc9@yahoo.com)

My guess is that everyone was happy to put 2020 in the rearview mirror and concentrate on looking through the windshield toward a brighter future in 2021. To that end, we continue to make plans for the postponed 44<sup>th</sup> Convention/ Reunion of The Soaring Eagles. As previously reported the Soaring Eagles Board has decided to provide an evening dinner cruise on Tampa Bay Saturday, Oct. 23. From 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. Watch for frequent updates as we get closer to Convention time. As previously reported, I am looking for fifty people to commit to attending the cruise before signing the contract. So far, I have 30 such commitments. Do not commit, if you are not sure.

Grieving the loss of loved ones and friends is never easy but can be more difficult depending on how close the relationship was between you and the deceased. Although I am saddened whenever we must report the death of any of our members, it is particularly difficult in these next three instances.

## Captain Ed Slattery

It should come as no surprise to most of you that Captain Ed Slattery was instrumental in my getting hired by Allegheny Airlines in 1967. Ed along with his wife Nancee, and my brother Charles and his wife Ruth were the core of my support team. Although my brother and his wife would have been expected to support the effort when Ed & Nancee Slattery got behind the effort, it kind of sealed the deal. I cannot overemphasize the profound effect that Ed had on my

life. His help over the years dramatically changed my life, and the lives of my children as well. Back in November, I sensed that Ed's decline was quickening, and at the urging of my wife Donna decided to drive to Tampa (easier than flying with Covid restrictions) to visit with Ed over the weekend of Nov. 22, and 23. I did not tell him I was coming to surprise him. And he was in fact surprised. We had a short, but meaningful visit. Ed, Nancee, and I sat together and talked about the good times, prayed, and I thanked them for having such a positive influence on my life, I had met them both when I was twelve years old through my brother Charles. On the way back to Virginia I spoke to Ed by phone, and he said, "Joe I'm on my last leg, please tell all of my friends goodbye for me, and I'll see them in heaven." There, I just did. I am so glad that Donna urged me to make the trip, as Ed died peacefully one-week later Nov. 29, 2020. My mentor, my friend, my brother, and my Captain.

I am working on a more expanded tribute to Ed but wanted to share these thoughts with you now.



## **Captain Johnny Gilbert**

I first met Captain John as a new-hire First Officer in 1967 and received initial training from him in the F27. Although I was not that close to Captain John over the years, our friendship slowly matured and blossomed over the last fifteen or so years. John and I talked frequently after I served as his Second Vice President of The Soaring Eagles in 2013. Captain John & Reba Ambrester were fixtures at the annual Convention/Reunions and John will surely be missed. I had the good fortune to speak with John shortly before he decided to suspend the hospice treatment and let God take over. John was a deeply spiritual man and knew when it was time to do that.

Rest in Peace My Friend

## **Captain Eugene C. "Gene" Conway**

Gene Conway and I met in 1974 two years after the Mohawk merger and were heavily involved in the seniority issues surrounding the commuter network, and the furloughing of pilots. My recollection is that Gene was one of the pilots that opted to fly the M-298 under the agreement that resulted from some of our collective efforts in that regard. Gene also served as the MEC Grievance Committee Chairman and was resolute in representing those pilots who came to him for assistance. Gene and I spoke frequently about many topics from religion to politics, (not taboo for us). It was difficult to accept that someone who had such a sharp intellect had declined so rapidly. Gene was a Roman Catholic and devoted to the Rosary. Although I will miss Gene, he will be remembered when I say my own Rosary.

May He Rest in The Peace of Christ

*“You got to (pay your dues) **if you want** to sing **the blues** and **you know it** don't come easy.”*

As of this writing Captain Paul Sturpe advises that of the 805 members that should be paying dues 345 have done so thus far. The dues were payable at the end of January, and it is possible that you simply overlooked this obligation, or you have no intention of paying the dues. If it is the former you can do it now by mailing a check to Captain Sturpe at the address at the end of this message. If you do not intend to pay dues let us know so that we can take the appropriate steps to stop pestering you. If you turned 80 prior to Jan. 1, 2017, you are exempt. If you turned 80 after Jan 1, 2017 your dues obligation was reduced from \$40.00 to \$25.00 yearly

“You gotta pay your dues, to keep us from having the blues”

Captain Paul Sturpe

8860 Peninsula Dr.

Terrell, N.C. 28682

PayPal to:

[SoaringEaglesTres@gmail.com](mailto:SoaringEaglesTres@gmail.com)

Thanks in advance,

Joe

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**USAir Soaring Eagles Website is available with current daily information**  
<https://usairsoaringeagles.org/>

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(724) 378-7025

Flight Attendant Judy Schmidt  
Colbath

[schonewalds64@aol.com](mailto:schonewalds64@aol.com)

I am so excited about the prospect of seeing everyone at the upcoming Soaring Eagles Convention in Tampa in October.

As you all know I have issued several challenges in the past urging all members to be recruiters of new members. I did not simply issue a challenge, but I accepted it myself, and we recently welcomed six new members, and while I cannot take credit for all of them, most of them joined through my efforts.

I am not looking for any reward, other than growing the organization so that we can fully enjoy the experiences that we all had in growing five different airlines into what eventually became USAir.

I renew the challenge of recruiting new members. I am looking forward to seeing you in Tampa Oct. 22, 23, and 24, and I hope you will bring at least one new member with you. Membership applications can be downloaded on the [Usairsoaringeagles.org](http://Usairsoaringeagles.org) website under the Resources tab.

Now get busy,

Judy

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(330) 277-6233

Captain Alvahn Mondell

[captalvahn@aol.com](mailto:captalvahn@aol.com)

Everything is fine here in Salem Ohio. It's like Halloween everyday, everyone has masks, but I think it is more trick than treat. Seriously I am really looking forward to seeing everyone in Tampa over the weekend of Oct. 22,23 and 24th.

Unfortunately, I missed the 2019 Reunion / Convention, so I am really anxious to reconnect with "Old" friends.

See you in Tampa,

Al

**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

(619) 417-7274

Flight Attendant Judi Todd

[judiwtodd@gmail.com](mailto:judiwtodd@gmail.com)

Hallelujah, 2020 is finally over. I'm not too sure 2021 is going to be a lot better, but I am a positive person and always look and hope for the best. Restaurants are starting to open up for dining inside again (I'm pretty sure everyone is tired of eating in the parking lots), especially if you reside in colder climates. I'm still a bit apprehensive about flying but really want to come for the reunion in October so I will "bite that bullet" as I live clear across the states in California. I'm sure excited about seeing you all so please come and join us in Tampa October 22-24. I guarantee we all will have a blast. Judi

**TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

(828) 478-1133

Captain Paul Sturpe

[sturpe@gmail.com](mailto:sturpe@gmail.com)

I mentioned this last time but if bears repeating again. The Soaring Eagles needs someone to take over the Web Site. If you have computer skills here is your chance to get involved. Let me or your president know if you want to help out the Association in this way.

Check the Soaring Eagles web site often at: <https://usairsoaringeagles.org/> The latest news is always posted there and we add new content every week or so. Look for "UPD" on the top menu items to see if there are recent changes or additions to that particular section.

I would be remiss if I didn't include a note about my primary responsibility which includes collecting the dues. Remember that 2021 dues were due by January 31, 2021. If you haven't paid, I am still happy to take them. Make your check out to "Soaring Eagles" and send to:

8860 Peninsula Dr.

Terrell, NC 28682

If you use PayPal send it to [SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com](mailto:SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com)

Things are starting to warm up in North Carolina so spring is about sprung! Suzanne and I both are fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, just announced today, a group of people who are all vaccinated can meet WITHOUT WEARING MASKS! So, it looks like the Convention will happen as more and more people get their vaccinations and restrictions continue to be lifted.

Suzanne and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in October. So long until next quarter.

## “SOARING EAGLES WRITE”

On March 21st, 2021 Retired Captain and longtime Master Executive Council Chairman John J. "Joe" Rahl celebrates his 99th Birthday. I would like to send him a folio of Birthday Greeting from as many people as possible, if you would like to send a message to Joe just forward it to me and I will include it in the packet that I will send him. Joe does not have a computer, so the only way he can get advance notice of this would be for someone to go to the trouble of telling him.

For those who wish to send him a greeting directly the address is provided below:

Captain John J. Rahl  
671 Lakeside Cir.  
Apt. 904  
Pompano Beach, Fl 33060-3718

Thanks,  
Joe

### **Notes from Joe & Carol Hall**

Fall and winter were great here on the Panhandle! I actually had to wear long pants (sometimes for days at a time 😂👍) our house is completely repaired so things are good. My one opportunity to fly : Baron (58?) was ruined when the gear collapsed on landing! Nothing hurt but the poor twin! The owner had insurance so not terrible! Thanks to the Officers for all they do for us!! 🛩️



FROM  
ANTHONY CENCI  
TO DO

11/18/20

MY HUMBLE APOLOGIES  
FOR THE DELAY IN SENDING  
THIS. \$8.00 SHOULD COVER  
2020 & 21.

I RETIRED IN FEBRUARY  
OF 2018 AFTER ALMOST  
33 YEARS WITH OUR  
MORGAN OF MINNESOTA...  
NOW ENJOYING A LIFE OF  
LEISURE RESIDING IN PINEHURST  
AND SECOND HOME IN LAUREL.

INVITATIONS ARE ALWAYS  
ENCOURAGED IF IN  
THE AREA.

FROM:  
ANTHONY CENCI  
.COM



Sunday 3 January 2021

Dear Paul,

Please find my check #1094 for dues 2021 for \$40.00. All is well on the Western front of Pennsylvania. Needless to say, this past year has been traumatic, in so many ways, I'm sure glad it's behind us, and looking forward to getting back, to normal soon. Trust your well and thanks to all of the officers of the Soaring Eagles, for keeping it going. Have a Happy New Year.

Best Regards,

Bill "Ole" Oehlbeck Jr.



2/22/2021

Hi Paul,

Thanks for the Soaring Eagles dues reminder...my apologies for being tardy.

Since retiring from USAir in 2007, I have continued to fly mostly Cessna Citations for private owners and charter companies. It has been a lot of fun meeting and flying trips for a number of entertainers and sports figures. One of my more interesting flights was a couple of years ago when I was assigned a trip from IND to HOU to pick up former President George H. W. Bush (number 41) and bring him to Indy for an evening fund raiser. It involved a lot of Secret Service Clearance paper work in advance and there were three Secret Service individuals and a young assistant to the President on board for the flight. The President came by the cockpit to chat for a few minutes and gave my co-pilot and I a set of Presidential cufflinks as a thank you gift. I am currently flying a Piper Malibu for a financial company out of Indy with typically one or two days a week at most.

I bought a RV this year and was hoping to make one lap around the country with it but my wife doesn't seem too enthused about that idea, so it may be a very short lap. In any event we are both healthy and get our second vaccine shots tomorrow. I am sure that we all will be happy to be back to level of normalcy again soon.



Ed Daugherty

317-201-8017

Edflys4u@aol.com

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Captain Peter F. Acquaro  
13 Joy Road  
Selden, N. Y. 11784  
H/P (631) 698-9159  
C/P (516) 635-3195

Captain Paul Sturpe  
Treasurer  
8860 Peninsula Dr.  
Terrell, N.C. 28682-9796

RE: Membership Dues

Hello Paul,

Another New Year and its time to renew memories with old acquaintances.

Paul, I spoke at length with Joe in the beginning of January, and in doing so was able to discover that I was in rears of one year in updating my dues payment. The error was founded on an honest mistake on my part due to a debilitating medical problem which has been successfully overcome. All is well and I am looking forward to hearing about all those who I have come to share the sanctity of space with.

Enclosed is a check for \$80.00, \$40.00 for this year and \$40.00 for 2020 for which Joe advised me that I was in rears of.

As I reflect upon the magical moments of my career, I find that I truly miss the exciting stuff that makes the thoughts of yesterday a source for wonderful dreams of pleasure.

May this year be an uneventful flight through life for all...

Peter Acquaro



THE RETIRED PILOTS AND FLIGHT ATTENDANTS ASSOCIATION OF USAir

APPLICATION & INFORMATION UPDATE

NAME: EVELYN THORNTON SPOUSE FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE 02/27/38 BASE PIT-RETIRED

PRIMARY MAIL STREET ADDRESS 241 DRAKESIDE RD, UNIT 2104

CITY HAMPTON STATE NH ZIP CODE 03842 PHONE 603-926-7242

SECOND ADDRESS & MONTHS USED \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL RETIREEVIE@AOL.COM POSITION  FLIGHT ATTENDANT  PILOT

USAir DATE OF HIRE 03/05/62 DEPARTURE DATE 06/01/2000

AIRLINE SERVICE PRIOR TO JOINING USAir (AIRLINES THAT MADE UP USAir)  
LAKE CENTRAL

BETWEEN WHAT CITIES WAS YOUR FIRST AIRLINE FLIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WAS CAPTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR MOST MEMORABLE FLYING EXPERIENCE? ALLEGHENY  
HIJACK - 09/18/70

(over if necessary)

REGULAR MEMBER PLEASE INCLUDE..... \$40 ANNUAL DUES  
AGE EIGHTY AND OVER..... \$25 ANNUAL DUES

SIGNATURE Evelyn Thornton DATE 02/23/21

Use your PayPal account to: [SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com](mailto:SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com)

Or pay by check and If you have changes Please Mail this form to:  
Captain Paul Sturpe, Treasurer Soaring Eagles, 8860 Peninsula Dr, Terrell, NC 28682

David Price

PAUL,  
ALMOST FORGOT DOES  
I ENJOY EMAILS  
BUT SO SAD TO HEAR  
OF OLD FRIENDS  
PASSING AWAY.  
I HAVE BEEN WELL  
STILL HAVE A FEW  
HORSES AND RACING  
A FEW.

DONT SEE MANY OF  
THE USAIN PEOPLE  
BUT I'M NOT OUT  
THAT MUCH.

HELLO TO ALL  
MY OLD FRIENDS  
DAM

woundedwarriorproject.org

01-0045-000226103

Margaret Hall sent you \$25.00 USD

Note from Margaret Hall:

“ Doing well apart from Parkinson’s disease. Terri & I have been at our summer home in the mountains since June, 2020 to avoid Covid. Our children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren visit often, so we are never bored. Hope everyone is doing well. Roger Hall ”

Hi Paul,

Thanks for the correct  
address, so here comes my  
member check for \$25.-(0/80)

Hoping for a greater 2021  
with (muck) less ice & snow,  
bye-bye COVID, and a super  
reunion in the fall!

Stay safe & blessed,  
Don DeBruin

Dear Paul,

My wife Marcia and I returned to Florida 2 weeks ago after a 10 month sequester in New London NH.

We still have our home up there since 1979, where we are normally in residence from May through

October. Our Naples Fl term is usually just the Nov.-May period.

The Covid changed our plans last April, and so far we are Covid 19 free.

It's a miracle since Marcy is in her 45th year with the company and has been flying trans-Atlantic purser

for quite some time dealing with hundreds of souls every month. She will probably opt for retirement

in 1 year or less.

I retired in 1994 after 13 yrs. of naval duty and 25 yrs with the airline. Don't know where the time has gone

since the last Capt. flt. on the MD-80.

Not much was reportable for some time what with golf, biking, some tennis boating and fishing.

Then dealt with 3 surgeries on the right knee resulting in replacement. A while after that I found myself

in the Naples hospital with GBS virus. (Guilliam bree) So much for physical activities after that. Bike riding

with the wife is about it. now. Finally got to decide I do miss flying and the comraderie of all the old friends.

Seems like the get-togethers are usually in the Boston area when we are escaping the northern weather and

down in Florida.

Both daughters are married and elsewhere. One is a professor at U. of Iowa, the other is a FBI special agent

in Los Angeles.

Happy at this point for the two of us to be relatively healthy . Would love to see a get-together reunion in

S.W. Florida sometime.

Remember me to any old Mohawk, Allegheny, US Air you rub shoulders with.

Regards,

*Garrett Kope*

*239-594-3934*

*603-491-2375*

*( excuse my computer - letter set-up skills )*

Feb. 19, 2021

Hello Paul,

Glad to hear from the Soaring Eagles. For many months, I heard absolutely nothing. Thought that we might have folded up.

As with most of us, Covid 19 has had an impact on our lives. Our normal ~~the~~ traveling lifestyle has slowed down.

We did make our way to our summer home in N. Mich last June, returning to FL in Sept. We will travel to CT in May to attend our grandson's graduation from the Coast Guard Academy.

We are fortunate to have received our Covid 19 shots recently; hopefully 2021 will get this thing behind us. A reunion seems unlikely at this time I would think.

Stay well; best regards.

Mo' & Connie Moffatt

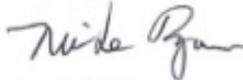
19 February 2021

Hi Paul,

Enclosed is my payment for my Soaring Eagles dues. We are still well and happy in Tennessee. I am in my 10<sup>th</sup> year with my financial planning firm, Seven Oaks Financial Planning, which I opened after my last landing. It has been a blessing in that it keeps me out of the bingo parlors and pool halls, and has given me a number of new friends. It still allows me enough free time for golf, grandsons, church, and a bit of travel. We have been blessed with good health, and good friends.

Thanks for what you do to keep Soaring Eagles in business.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Ryan".

Mike Ryan

DON BURLOW'S RECENT ACTIVITIES

3510 INDIANA AVE. BAKER CITY, OR

THINGS MASONIC;

LIFE MEMBER IN 3 LODGES  
IN EASTERN OREGON & AN  
OFFICER IN EACH ONE, A  
2 TIME PAST MASTER, PAST  
GRAND LODGE TYLER (OR.),  
KNIGHT COMMANDER IN  
THE SCOTTISH RITE & A  
SHRINER.

I AM A PAST CHAPLAIN  
(5 YRS) @ THE BAKER  
ELKS LODGE # 338

I AM A LIFE MEMBER OF THE  
HISTORIC NAHLOW GAGE  
SUMMIT VALLEY RAILROAD  
WHICH RUNS STEAM & →

DIESEL-ELECTRIC. I OPENED  
UP & SAT ON THE POD FOR  
A WHILE.

THESE ARE THINGS I COULD  
NOT DO WHILE FLYING.

MY WIFE PATRICIA (PATRI)  
IS A RETIRED R.N. & IS  
NOW ENGAGED IN A RETAIL  
BUSINESS IN A HISTORIC  
BUILDING (OVER A HUNDRED  
YRS OLD) - WHITE MOUSE  
ART & DESIGN STUDIO IN  
TOWN WITH A GAL PAL  
PARTNER. CONSIDERING  
THE CNL CULTURE - IT'S  
GOING PRETTY WELL.

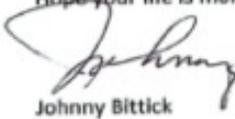
MAX, D.J.

February 19, 2021

Dear Paul,

Not much to report this past year. What with the COVID and my wife's dementia we didn't go anywhere. I stay busy with church activities – I'm a Deacon and chair several church committees – and also work in several local community organizations. I'm looking forward to ditching my mask, and a Navy reunion in the fall.

Hope your life is more exciting than mine,



Johnny Bittick

2/20/2021

CAPT. STURPE:

CAPTAIN, SORRY I'M  
LATE WITH MY DUES,  
BUT MY WIFE PASSED AWAY  
LAST YEAR 2/20/20 AND  
SHE TOOK CARE OF  
EVERYTHING FOR 35 YRS.

TAKE CARE,

CAPTAIN REX BARNHART

Paul,

Hey, it's too late for  
St. Paddies Day but I'm  
too late also.

I definitely qualify for  
the 80+ exemption price of  
\$25 but since I failed last  
year I'm gonna make it up

Thanks

Jack Allen

D.S.

I flew EG Crusaders in the Navy  
with VF-51... the Screaming Eagles

Wishing you  
the luck of the Irish -  
today and every day.

Downwell in CA.

Playing tough tennis... I still  
have good legs and writing  
songs... I belong to NSAI  
Nashville Songwriters Assn

Here's my #50

Hello Paul,

I hope this finds you well.

I was not sure about my dues status, So I sent two years.

If I need to send more please let me know. I hope we can meet  
this year for the reunion, We are losing to many friends!

Bob Marlow  
1670 Touchette Terr  
The Villages, FL 32163  
267-767-0998

3/1/2021

Dear Paul,

Please forgive me for getting this Soaring Eagles Dues - check to you late.

I chose to send \$40.00 for Gene to keep his membership.

As you may be aware, his health is declining. We have some good days yet. I have my hands full. He is at home.

Please give everyone our best regards. So very sad to hear of the loss of Capt. John Gilbert.

We will see them all again one day.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Maurice Schumacher for Capt.  
Eugene "Gene" J. Schumacher

## “HANGER FLYING”

When reviewing the membership application for Lela Mullins who recently joined The Soaring Eagles, I thought the following story was worthy of repeating. Lela was hired by Allegheny in March of 1960, and one of her memorable flights was with Toby West on her first flight HGR, HAR, AOO, JST, PIT. On another trip, Lela got sick and threw up into a coffee cup in the cockpit of a DC3. The First Officer Dick Lamont cussed her out for that. I should think he would have thanked her for not throwing up down his back. You just can't please pilots.

For Lela,

Joe

### **My Helen Feldman Story**

The year is uncertain but is not important to the story. I had flown several times with Helen as a First Officer but was now occupying the left seat when this incident occurred. I was being assisted by Steve Kunkle the First Officer, and Helen Feldman, and Diane Reber were the Flight Attendants. We had departed BWI enroute to FLL and were having an uneventful flight, just the way I like it.

Just prior to passing Charleston, S.C. I had made an enroute P/A announcement, when Helen came into the cockpit (before locked doors), and said, “Joe I think we might have a problem.” I responded, “I don’t think so.”

Helen got this puzzled look on her face, and said, “What do you mean”? I responded, “I told you when we started this trip, that I don’t do problems.” Helen then went on to explain that some jerk in 22A had asked her following my announcement, what time would we be landing in Havana. I responded with an expletive, that I will not repeat here. Helen then asked me what I wanted her to do. I said, “Go back and inform the gentleman (you really don’t think I called him a gentleman do you)? that we don’t think he’s funny, and knock off the joking around. About five minutes later Helen returned to the cockpit to report that the jerk had responded that he was not joking.

Well now !!, this changes the situation just a little bit. The passengers sitting around this idiot have heard his initial attempt at humor, and subsequent statement that he is not joking. To do nothing is to expose the Airline to criticism, and possible legal action for doing nothing. We got patched into Systems Control and described the situation to them as a potential for hi-jacking but not an actual hi-jacking. It was decided to have law enforcement meet the

flight in FLL and let them deal with this guy.

When we entered the ramp in FLL the end of the jetway looked like a sparkling diamond there were so many law enforcement agencies present on the jetway. It was agreed that as Diane Reber was thanking the passengers for flying with us, she would simply point to the offending passenger, and law enforcement would take it from there. I told Steve Kunkle that we would remain in the cockpit, as that gave us better control of the situation if necessary. Or maybe I was just chicken.

Steve and I are listening at the cockpit door, when we hear a shrill female voice cry out, "He was only kidding", followed by a gruff male voice, "Well Lady we ain't kidding" followed by click, click as the cuffs went on. Up the jetway the merry little band of cops go with their quarry in tow.

The offending passenger was interviewed by the FBI, followed by interviews of the entire crew. As it turns out the offending passenger and his wife were enroute to a funeral, and he was just trying to be funny.

So, there you have it one of my remembrances of Helen Feldman. I'm sure others that knew Helen will attest to the cheerful attitude, and professional approach that she brought to being a good person, and to her duties as a Flight Attendant.

Joe

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