



# Aerie News

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

**Second Quarter 2019**

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**Board of Directors**

President	Joe Kernan
1st VP	Dan Friel
2nd VP	Judy Schmidt
Treasurer	Paul Sturpe
Secretary	Open
Past President	John Davis

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**(276) 632-9941**

**Captain Joe Kernan**

**[joekernandc9@yahoo.com](mailto:joekernandc9@yahoo.com)**

It is with a profound sense of loss that I write this article. This issue of the Aerie was started before Gerry Milburn's death, and its completion has fallen to me. I am dedicating this issue of the Aerie to the memory of Captain Gerald E. Milburn who worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Soaring Eagles Organization as a whole, and for me personally. Indeed his good counsel and dedication to The Soaring Eagles will be missed. Gerry would want us to carry on, and prepare for the reunion in October.

May He Rest in Peace

It's never too early to start the preparations for the 43rd Annual Soaring Eagles Reunion to be held in Tampa Florida at the Tampa Westshore Marriott October 25, 26, 27. I'm pleased to announce that the Soaring Eagles Board in conjunction with an anonymous donor will be sponsoring an all expenses paid luncheon cruise on Tampa Bay on Saturday Oct. 26, 2019. Bus transportation to and from the channel side dock will also be provided. Last year's reunion was one of the best in recent memory, and we hope that many of you will take the opportunity to join us this year and try to surpass last year's success. All of the information you need to make hotel registration can be found on page 17 of the website [usairsoaringeagles.org](http://usairsoaringeagles.org) or on page one of the new website. Later on you will receive a revised Soaring Eagles Reunion Registration form for use in registering with Treasurer Sturpe. The revisions are necessary, since your board has heard you regarding reunion expenses and meal costs at the hotel. There is little that we can do about the hotel meal costs, and we are one if not the only group that gets a 20% discount on breakfast in the Blue Bistro. Management actually wanted to discontinue that practice sometime ago, but

the sales staff resisted that effort, as the relationship that we have with the hotel is an excellent one that dates back to Bob Knapp's Presidency. Your board voted to reduce the individual meal charges from \$55.00 per meal to \$45.00 per meal. The Friday meet & greet has always been on the Soaring Eagles and will remain so.

One of the last things that Gerry Milburn did for the Soaring Eagles was to obtain new Soaring Eagles lapel pins. These pins are actually in the original style from years ago, and refer to the Soaring Eagles of USAir. I will have an ample supply of these pins available at the Reunion, and you can either trade in the USAirways pins, or get a new USAir pin. I had the opportunity to pin one of the new USAir pins on Gerry's hospital gown last week before he passed, and I know that Gerry would be pleased if these pins got wide distribution.

***FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

**(703) 536-7397**

**Captain Dan Friel**

**[danfriel1938@gmail.com](mailto:danfriel1938@gmail.com)**

The loss of Gerry Milburn was a shock. As a friend, you were lucky to have him. As an airline captain, he was a pleasure to work with. In management, he knew his job and did it well. I'm proud to have known him, and to have flown with him. I look forward to seeing everyone in Tampa.

***TREASURER'S MESSAGE***

**(828) 478-1133**

**Captain Paul Sturpe**

**[Sturpe@gmail.com](mailto:Sturpe@gmail.com)**

It is with a heavy heart that I write my second quarter report for the Aerie. My good friend, fellow check airman, Soaring Eagle and PSA merger assistant to name just a few of Gerry Milburn's many accomplishments flew West February 24. Gerry, enjoy the good weather and smooth ride on your journey Westward.

Life goes on and so here are just a few items from your treasurer. Dues checks and PayPal payments are still coming in even though they were due by January 31. We are still happy to receive your dues anytime during the year in case you forgot about the change or just didn't get around to it. Oh yes, I said PayPal payments are now accepted. If you haven't heard before we can now accept PayPal for your dues. Have PayPal send them to [SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com](mailto:SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com) (not case sensitive.)

Also, for those of you who are now 83 years young and have been Soaring Eagles members for at least the last 3 years, you are actually exempt from paying dues. You have grandfather rights. Of course you may continue to send in dues as many of you continue to do. We will treat those monies as contributions to the Soaring Eagles unless you designate otherwise.

We still have a few members who are sending checks to our former Treasurers. In some cases this is because the members have their banks programed to send their checks automatically on a certain date. If you are one of those please remember to have your bank change the mailing address to:

Soaring Eagles  
8860 Peninsula Dr  
Terrell, NC 28682

Captain Leefe gets a little upset when he has to spend 55 cents to forward those payments to me but he is too nice to ask for reimbursement! Just kidding Bill.

I hope you all had a nice holiday season and I hope to see some new faces along with the familiar faces at the reunion this year.

So long until next quarter.

Paul Sturpe, Treasurer

***SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

**Flight Attendant Judy Schmidt Colbath**

Oh my! What a nice man Gerry Milburn was. I only had the opportunity to work with him on the board for a short time, and I found him to be so pleasant to work with. He was the Soaring Eagles President in 2017 when the by-laws were changed to allow full membership to the flight attendants, and since then fifteen new flight attendant members have joined. As sad as Gerry's passing was, I am pleased that he is no longer suffering, and he is in a better place. I hope that all of my flight attendant friends will redouble their efforts to attend this year's reunion so we can show our respects to Gerry Milburn for whom I had the utmost respect, by becoming fully involved in the organization.

Judy Schmidt Colbath

From Our Former Treasurer & Jacque Leefe

The passing of Capt. Gerry Milburn leaves a void that will be very hard to fill but the work and memories of Gerry will long be remembered. May he rest in peace knowing that he did well for the Soaring Eagles.

Bill & Jacque Leefe

**USAir Soaring Eagles Website is available with current daily information.**

**[usairsoaringeagles.org](http://usairsoaringeagles.org)**

# FLOWN WEST

## CONDOLENCE FUND DONORS

### **Captain Roger Howie:**

*Roger passed away May 9, 2017. No further details.*

### **Captain Jack Burchfield:**

*Jack passed away April 4, 2018. No further details.*

### **F/A Peggy Palko:**

*Long time DCA based Flight Attendant Peggy Palko passed away in DCA September 2018.*

### **Captain Gerry Milburn**

*Gerry passed away February 24, 2019.*

### **Captain Clancy Taylor**

*Clancy passed away February 26, 2019. No further details*

## CONDOLENCE FUND DONORS

*Seth "Butch" & Diane Schofield  
Susan Ellsworth Shaw  
Gerald E. Milburn  
Loretta Daczkowski  
Joe Kernan  
Dave Engle  
Jack Semenko  
Marion Borek  
Bill Leefe  
John Gilbert  
William Mumford*

*Richard and Jean Volkwein  
Bob and Betty Jo Knapp  
John McCarthy  
Thomas Kreamer  
Judith Schmidt  
Edward B. Cook  
Sali Burgard Dunkel  
John C. Farrell  
David C. Purcell  
Mike Cranson*

## **BE ON THE LOOKOUT (BOLO)**

We do not have accurate address for the following people. If you know their contact information please forward to Captain Paul Sturpe, [Sturpe@gmail.com](mailto:Sturpe@gmail.com)

- Charles Forrester
- Paul Howe
- Atleah Grubb, Gary Grubb's widow
- Donald Greenfield
- Carole Litten
- Jean Budlong, Bert Budlong's widow

## In Memoriam



Captain Gerald Estes Milburn, 79, of Port Orange, FL, passed away Sunday, February 24, 2019. He was born on January 23, 1940, the son of the late Clifford Tilman Milburn and Cordie Lewis (Miller) Milburn.

Captain Gerald E. Milburn was born in Texas, Kentucky 1-23-40 where he grew up with a love of airplanes and took his first flight when he was 15 years old. He served in the United States Air Force from 1957 to 1961. In 1967 he was hired as a pilot for Lake Central Airlines which eventually became USAir. Captain Milburn had a career that spanned 3 decades as a pilot, check airman, chief pilot and he retired as the Senior Director of Flight Operations for USAir.

After retiring from the airline, Captain Milburn went on to a second career at the Federal Aviation Administration where he served in many roles which included the training department in Oklahoma City. Captain Milburn was also very active in the Pinto Horse Association where he was instrumental in the association's success. He served as their President from 1977-1981, 1983-1985 & 1989-1991. He also founded the Pinto Heritage Foundation and served as president from 2006-2016. Captain Milburn also held many offices including President of the USAir retiree group; The Soaring Eagles where he remained actively involved in the membership and member services as an officer until his death.

He is survived by his daughter, Julie Milburn of Indianapolis, IN and his son Joe Milburn and his wife Claudia of Michigan. He is also survived by his grand children, Ashley Christina Milburn, Asia Milburn, Brad Milburn, Adam and Evan Milburn and Sarah Milburn. He was predeceased by his two sons, Clifford Tilman (Tim) Milburn and Gerald Milburn.

I can't begin to express just how much I appreciate all of the kindness and support that I have received from The Soaring Eagles Group. Every single card, note or phone call has truly meant so much. I also want you to know how grateful I am for the donation to the Pinto Heritage Foundation and I know my dad would be too. Some of you I have had the pleasure to meet and others I feel like I already know because my father talked about each of you and shared so many stories with me about his days at USAir. He truly loved "his" Soaring Eagles and thoroughly enjoyed the work he did for them. I wholeheartedly want to say thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time and I'd like to let each of you know how deeply touched I am to know that my dad knew so many wonderful people.

Sincerely,  
Julie Milburn





**PINTO  
HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION, INC**

March 21, 2019

Soaring Eagles  
8860 Peninsula Drive  
Terrell, NC 28682

RE: Donation

Dear Soaring Eagles:

The Pinto Heritage Foundation would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$50.00 to the Gerald Milburn Memorial Scholarship Fund on March 5, 2019. Donation proceeds support the Scholarship programs and the Pinto Heritage Museum.

Your contribution will allow the Pinto Heritage Foundation to grow and develop.

This letter will serve as your receipt for your tax-deductible donation. The Pinto Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Thank you again for your support of the Pinto Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Sincerely,

Joe E. Grissom  
President

Cc: Darrell L. Bilke  
Executive Vice President/COO  
Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.

March 4, 2019

Dear Joe and Soaring Eagle members,

I'm very sorry and embarrassed that it has taken me so long to acknowledge the wonderful Soaring Eagles plaque and my membership in the Soaring Eagles.

I lost my oldest sister in December and my youngest sister has been in and out of the hospital twice since then. With the holidays and these personal issues, I just didn't seem to be able to sit down and send you a thank you until now.

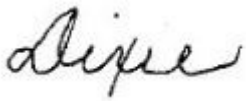
Since I didn't attend the Soaring Eagles Convention and Bill Leefe was to present it to me at the A.R.U.E Christmas party which I was also unable to attend, Judy Schmidt kindly took possession of it and made the presentation to me at the Flight Attendants Christmas party. So three's a charm!

I was very pleased and have placed the plaque on my bookcase where I used to display the plaque I received from USAirways at my retirement party in 2008.

It is really special for me to be honored by the Soaring Eagles. Through all my 44 years of service at Allegheny/USAirways it was my pilot group that made me happy to come to work each day. I really loved my job and my boys.

Thank you so much for the plaque and the membership,

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dixie".

## **"HANGAR FLYING"**

### **Captain Joe Henderson:**

*Hi Gerry: I so appreciate the new "Hangar Tales" feature of the AERIE. Here's my tale: We all remember Captain "Bucky" Buchanan (Hope I've spelled his last name correctly!) I was a newly recalled F/O in EWR from furlough at Lake Central Airlines. Of course, the Allegheny guys "moved" airplanes so I was very "behind things" until I could understand the controllers and get up to speed. I had acquired an old war surplus pair of headphones with the large foam ear pads to help me hear things. Most of the captains just turned the speakers on full volume so we were all going deaf. I'd never flown with "Bucky." We were going to PVD on a 580. He sits down and turns to look firmly at me. "Hey Joe, take them things (headphones) off! They scare me!" OK. Request complied. During the flight, Bucky turns to me and declares, "OK, kid, take over. I'm going to the cabin." He proceeds to open the cockpit door and lights a cigar! He then strolls back through the cabin smoking the cigar and talking with the passengers. I knew this because he left the cockpit door open! Bucky comes back to the cockpit as I start down for the NE runway at PVD. The wx is VFR. I was new on the 580, and I think we all remember it could have "stiff legs." I PRANGED it on the runway. Bucky turns to me on the rollout and slaps my shoulder, "Great landing, kid! Great landing!" **Captain Joe Henderson, A330 retired, last LCA pilot class, July 5, 1967.***

### **Captain Bob Kaufman:**

*Dec. 13 1968 I received my telegram from Captain Harvey so I resigned from Rockwell to Fly with good old Allegheny. Then we lost not one but two 580s. Thanks to our great management and very good Pilots look where we are today! After retirement Delta said they hired me because USAir Pilots had a reputation for being very good. Thanks guys I miss you. **Bob***

### **Captain Joe Henderson:**

*Gerry: I was a new co-pilot and got an F-27 trip out of EWR. I had not flown with Don Romlein. We were sitting at DCA waiting for a night takeoff. Don turned to me and said, "Joe, do you know what that 4th stripe on my uniform jacket means?" I braced myself and said, "No, Don, I don't" He replied, "It just means I've been here longer than you!" Don was one of the great ones on our great airline! **Joe***



## “Soaring Eagles Write”

**Captain Ed Clegg:**

*Still alive and flying my RV-8. I'm in the fourth quarter now and hoping to go the distance. Hi to all especially the PSA folks. I think of them often. **Ed***

**Captain Warren Zergebel:**

*Gerry, Membership card arrived today. I am proud to carry it; Thank You! Can't Believe I have been retired 20 years this month. Still hoping for a call from crew sked. **Warren***

**Captain Dan Eckels:**

*Hi Paul, Enjoying retirement, have 10 grandkids. Keeps us hopping – love every minute of it. I'm exercising my A & P and IA with small airplanes. Acquired the airplane I flew in with my Dad over 50 years ago. Took me almost that long to get it back. The Lord has been good to us in spite of life's difficulties. Hope he comes back soon and straightens out this crazy world gone nuts. **Regards Dan Eckels, retired***

**Captain Bill Henderson:**

*Hi Paul, Hope you and Sue are doing good and hope you have a good 2019. Fran and I are well. I'm currently working for the Dorchester County Sherriff Department in South Carolina as a Transport Officer part time. 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Life is good, still playing golf. Best regards **Bill Henderson.***

**Captain Jim Medlock:**

*Hi Joe, Reporting from “Cleveland AZ” just north of “Springfield” on the “West Snake River” I received my Soaring Eagles retirement card in the mail today. I'm humbled to be part of such a great airline and share, I'm sure along with all our guys and gals, great pride in our association. You, Chubby and a few others were the best airman I ever had the privilege to fly with in our unique aviation “club.” Please tell Donna that Tomi and I send our best wishes. I'll start preparing for time off for the next reunion. **Jim***

**Captain Ernie Austin:**

*Soaring Eagles thanks for all you do to keep this organization alive. I am still teaching aviation subjects at Middle Tennessee State University. I plan to retire this year for the third time. My dues are enclosed. **Ernie***

**Captain Richard Segar:**

*Paul Sturpe, Thanks for being there. I have spent too much time in hospital and rehab since 2016 to attend any meetings. Hopefully Kathy and I will see you all at the next gathering. Kathy has been an excellent caregiver for 3 years and is now looking forward to some travel. **Richard and Kathy***

**Captain Ken Fessler:**

*Hi Paul, enclosed is my check for \$80.00. I'm sure I'm at least a year behind. The website is great and I enjoy it immensely. **Ken***

**Captain Jack Allen:**

*Hi Paul, Here's my \$80, one of the advantages of being 80. I'm still writing songs for NSAI (Nashville Songwriters). They have yet to supplement my retirement. **Jack***

**Captain William Fredricks:**

*Paul, dues are enclosed. I retired in 2018. I've never been busier. Too many hobbies and projects. Regards **Bill***

## **“Soaring Eagles Write”**

**Captain Dan Friel:**

*As for me, my flying days are over. I sold the super cub and the Cherokee is for sale. Health is good. Life is Great. See you in Tampa.*

**Captain Jim Garbett:**

*After being based in Philly for 19 LONGGG years, I finally got out alive! ;-) With 2.5 years to go before retirement, I'm based in DFW now, flying the “little bus” As you might imagine, living in SAT, DFW is far more “suitable” than PHL.*

*Compared to the commute to PHL, I can do the DFW commute “with both hands tied behind my bac.*

*Cheers,  
Jim Garbett*

**Captain Joe Hall:**

*Carol and I have “weathered Hurricane Michael “here in Cape San Blas/Port St Joe, we have new windows and siding is getting there!” I am out of Part 135/91 currency so I guess I really am re-tired! Thanks to all you volunteers for keeping us informed*

*Cheers,  
Joe & Carol Hall*

**Captain Don Burrows:**

*I have been busy with my Fraternal works with the Masons. Scottish Rite & the Shriners & to a lesser degree the Elks. Hip replacement for me last Oct went well with NO issues, ditto Patti with her knee replacement in Oct '17. Ol' age ain't fer sissies. Those things aside, enjoying watching grand kids grow & mature & wishing them well in this brave new age & world we're entering. Hope all of you are enjoying life, everyday is a gift. Be safe & well. Blue side up unless you're doing an airshow! Best from out west where the deer & the antelope still play!*

*Don & Patti Burrows*

**Captain Sharon Menear:**

Hi Joe,

Thanks for finishing Gerry's *Second Quarter Aerie* for 2019. I have some happy news. I got a new publishing contract with a publisher that wants to republish all my Samantha Starr thrillers with new covers and also has given my first three books new titles. *Deadstick Dawn* is now *Flight to Redemption*, *Poseidon's Sword* is now *Flight to Destiny*, *Blaze* is now *Triple Threat*, and *Stranded* and *Vanished* remain unchanged. They also want me to write a mystery series based on my short story *Guinevere's Lance* that appeared in my short stories book, *Life, Love, & Laughter*. My new publisher does a lot of marketing for their authors, so I'm hopeful I'll become known and gain new readers. I just turned 69 in February, so this is a huge opportunity for me, and I'm very grateful. I'm also grateful for my pilot friends who enjoy reading my books. They plan to publish the first book in May. Fingers crossed!

Sharon L. Menear, retired B737 captain

**Captain Kevin Matthews:**

Retiring March 9th Captain on Air Buss out of Philadelphia. Was in the hospital past week for Burst Colon, Emergency Surgery and surviving

**Captain Chuck Gilch:**

Hi Joe,

Thanks so much for your efforts on behalf of the Soaring Eagles. Kay and I were sorry to hear of Gerry's passing; he worked tirelessly and will be missed.

Hard to believe that I've been retired for 12 years; the time has flown by. I stay busy golfing and am active doing volunteer work. You will remember my wife Kay (Tierney) from her years in Pilot Records and the Training Department. We recently celebrated our 35th anniversary and life has been good to us! Kay took an early retirement in 2009 and we became snow birds in 2010, dividing our time between Bradenton, FL and the North Hills of Pittsburgh. We both golf and love that we now play year-round. My email is [Cgilch@consolidated.net](mailto:Cgilch@consolidated.net) and Kay's is [Kayg@consolidated.net](mailto:Kayg@consolidated.net). We'd love to hear from old friends! Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Gilch



**One of a kind – never delivered**

CHECK THE WEBSITE ADDRESS: [usairsoaringeagles.org](http://usairsoaringeagles.org)