



Steve Treece

FEB 25, 1948 - SEP 27, 2024



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On September 27th, 2024, Captain Steve Treece, 76, of Denver, NC took his final flight west. Despite battling numerous health issues throughout his years, he faced them bravely and always had a positive outlook on life. His absence will be deeply felt, reminding us of his inspiring journey.

Steve was born February 25th, 1948, in Albemarle, NC to the late Dewey & Lois Treece. He graduated from Albemarle High School in 1966 where he enjoyed band. After graduation, Steve attended Oak Ridge Military Academy and received his BA in Business Administration from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1971. This is the time when his love of flying ‘took off’. Steve entered the Air Force completing Pilot Training in Laredo, Texas in 1973. He then completed Squadron Officer’s School, at Maxwell AFB, Alabama in 1975. In July of that same year, he joined the North Carolina Air National Guard, 145th ALFT, serving 21 years. Lt. Col Treece was a Flight Instructor, Chief of Simulator Training, and Aircraft Commander among other positions. Additionally, he received the Meritorious Service Medal.

Steve landed his dream job with Piedmont Airlines on April 1st, 1985 where he flew for 17 years. As Piedmont grew, Steve took the opportunity to expand his skills moving from 727 Flight engineer to newer aircraft. During his career, he was known as a highly skilled aviator; to quote a coworker, “he was what airline pilots aspire to be”. He often remarked that flying for Piedmont Airlines was one of the best parts of his life. Like many others, you can take them out of the airplane but cannot take away the love of flight. Unfortunately, his career was sidelined due to heart problems. On November 13th, 2013, Steve received a heart transplant. His family extends a special thank you to Sanger Heart & Vascular, the heart donor, and their family.

Steve loved sailing, cars, music, and cooking and was a proud member of the Piedmont Silver Eagles. We will miss his quick wit, fun sense of humor, and zest for life. Steve dearly loved his family and country. He is survived by his wife Leslie, daughter Lindsay (Jonathan) Lesh of Fort Mill, SC, three grandchildren, Peter, Jon, and Emilia, and his sister, Pamela Coffey of Boca Raton,



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FL. Steve was a loyal husband, dad, papa, and faithful friend. No matter what life brought, we always felt safe in his capable hands.


With peace in our hearts, we know Captain Treece requested runway clearance for his last flight and final destination, Heaven. Steve, you will be truly missed and fondly remembered...We love you.


In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Oak Ridge Military Academy: Aviation Fund- Steve Treece, online or by mail to 2317 Oak Ridge Road, Oak Ridge, NC 27310, or the Tunnel to Towers Foundation <https://dogood.t2t.org/>


James Funeral Home is assisting the family, online condolences may be made at www.jamesfuneralhomelkn.com.

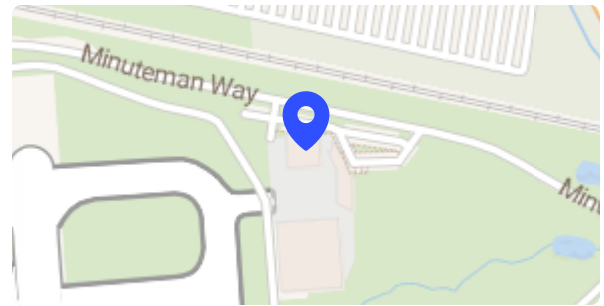


Celebration of Life

 **Sunday**, October 13, 2024

 **Sullenberger Aviation Museum**
4108 Minuteman Way , Charlotte NC 28208

 Please call/RSVP 704.649.3930 for attendance information.





Tribute Wall

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Lanny Lowder posted:

A fine and outstanding classmate from the AHS class of '66. Steve and I went to school together from the Little Red School House to graduating hs together. Proud to call him a friend. A life well lived but cut way to short. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed. Much love. Lanny Lowder.

October 12 at 4:35 AM



Gahlon H James November 8 at 10:58 AM

Just heard of Steve's final flight. I wish I had known sooner as I would have loved to say goodbye in person. Steve and I grew up together in Albemarle, attending 1st grade through Senior High. Our families were very close, and we attended West Albemarle Baptist Church together until we graduated high school in 1966. When we were very young our families vacationed together for several summers in Myrtle Beach. Steve and I lost track of each other after graduation. 10 years ago he contacted me and we talked about old times. We discussed our health and he told me of his heart transplant. I am so sad to her of his passing but I know he's still flying high in the heavens. He was one of my closest friends, one of those people you always remember. Hope to meet you at the big airport Captain.



Johnny Privette posted:

Steve was a great guy to work with. He was always willing to do what ever he needed to do to keep our airline flying. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time.

October 7 at 12:00 PM



Kati Hobson lit a candle in honor of Steve.

Steve and Leslis were the first in our community to embrace us and support our move to Denver NC in 2018. We were blessed by his knowledge, friendship, BBQ skills, good jokes and always balanced perspective. Witnessing his uplifting grace and determination while his earthy vessel was failing was truly inspiring to us. He never gave up and keep his hands in the yoke and feet on the paddles till the end! He will be sorely missed as a friend and community leader at Killian's Pointe. Our prayers and deeds are with you and the kids Leslie. Our sincerest condolences.



October 6 at 11:42 PM



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Cmsgt Michael Bigger posted:

What a great guy. I worked at the NCANG in the field of aircraft electronics. Steve was very interested in this. He came by often and wanted to learn all he could about the aircraft Avionics systems. He was always a pleasure to talk to and I learned from him as well. I'll sure miss Steve but I'll look him up when I get to Heaven. CMSGT Michael Bigger.

October 5 at 4:43 PM



Colleen Buckner Fields posted:

Blue skies and tailwinds SteveYour Piedmont Silver Eagles family

September 29 at 4:46 PM



Buddy Bowen October 11 at 2:03 PM

I always enjoyed my time with Steve at car shows and in the crew room I will miss my friend Buddy and Sherri Bowen



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Steve by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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