

# *In Memory of Captain Beverley Berkeley, Jr.*

*July 24, 1924—September 25, 2000*



I knew Bev Berkeley for 52 years as a loving father, friend, and airline pilot. He started his flying career at the young age of 17 with the United States Navy. By the age of 18, he was flying torpedo bombers off of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Princeton in the south Pacific during WWII.

After the war, Piedmont Airlines hired him at the age of 23. Dad, who was the thirteenth pilot hired, had a wonderful and fulfilling 36-and-a-half-year career, retiring as “number one” with the Company. Back in the early years of Piedmont, Dad said: “Co-pilots were assigned to one specific Captain for the entire month, which could be good or really, really bad because we had to share the same hotel room.” Can you imagine how difficult it would be to have a personality conflict with someone in the cockpit and then have to share a hotel room with him? (Remember, CRM did not exist then.) Through the years, Dad shared a lot of good stories about Piedmont and its early days. He helped start numerous pilots’ careers, often hand carrying their applications to the Chief Pilot in Winston-Salem, NC, Piedmont’s home office for both active and retired pilots to this day. He was also instrumental in the development of health care benefits for the pilot group. Dad flew the DC-3, Martin-404, FH-227, B-737, and finished his career on the B-727. He had a real gift for flying, which he passed on to me, my brother Paul (a PHL B-757 Captain), and his grandson Mike Berkeley (a United Airlines B-767 First Officer).

After retirement, Dad enjoyed his second home on Kiawah Island, S. C. His main interests in life were family, golf, the stock market, and his friends. Many of you had the pleasure of working with my Dad over the years. I’m sure that you’ll all agree with me that he was professional both in and out of the cockpit. He also had a great sense of humor and loved playing practical jokes. Even sick, Dad kept up his humor right until the very end. He spent his last year in a courageous battle against cancer, and he was determined even at the very end that he was going to beat it. The Lord finally took him home and ended his pain on September 25, 2000.

Bev will be greatly missed by his wife Anne, to whom he was married for 55 years; his daughter Anne Berkeley Viar; sons Bev and Paul; and the rest of the Berkeley family. Our family was overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for the cards and letters that we received from our pilots all over the world. My father touched many hearts, especially mine, and I will miss him greatly. He was one good guy!

*Beverley Berkeley III (B-757)  
PHL*