



*In Memory of
Captain Richard
“Dick” Xander*

March 5, 1928—June 22, 2001

My father, Captain Richard “Dick” Xander, was bitten by the aviation bug at an early age. As a teenager, he would mow grass on a golf course, dig potatoes, and perform any chore at East Penn Airport (near Lehigh, PA) to earn money for flying lessons in J-3 Cubs and Aeronca Champs. My dad started his career in aviation flying a Stearman, dusting and spraying the crops of the farms around Hightstown, NJ. In the early 1950s, he moved on to serve as an instructor for the U.S. Air Force at Kinston, NC, in T-6s and T-28s. He started his airline career in 1957 when he was hired by Allegheny Airlines as a DC-3 First Officer. He later flew Martin 202s, Convair 440/580s, DC-9-30/50s, and B-727-100/200s. On his days off, the flying continued in his Pitts S1-S, and later an S1-T, at the Beaver County Airport and in local air shows. After his retirement from USAir at age 60, my dad remained active in aviation as a pilot for Air Heritage, flying a C-123 and OV-1 for the Beaver Falls, PA-based museum.

While flying was a major part of my father’s life, his other interests included fishing and shooting, both trap and pistol. At one time a paid musician, my father played the steel guitar as well as the harmonica.

My dad was never quite comfortable in his retirement, but not just because of the airplanes he would no longer fly. He spoke often of the people he used to fly with, pilots and flight attendants, and the good times he had while working at USAir. My father is survived by his wife Bridget, his son Rick, and his daughter Karen, as well as his daughter-in-law Barbra and me.

He is loved and missed by all.

*Brian Xander (PHL)
B-757/767*