

In Memory of First Officer Charles M. “Skip” Ress

October 12, 1950 – March 29, 1999

First Officer Charles M. “Skip” Ress passed away on March 29 after a long courageous battle with cancer. Skip was buried with full military honors on April 2 at the Barrances National Cemetery, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida.

I have had the privilege of knowing Skip and his family since 1981 when we were neighbors in Virginia Beach. Prior to joining Piedmont Airlines in 1985, Skip distinguished himself flying in the US Navy. Skip was a 1972 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. His Naval career included active duty flying of the CH-53 Sea Stallion mine sweeping helicopters. Skip also flew fixed wing aircraft from the Naval Air Rework Facility NAS Pensacola, Florida. After joining Piedmont, Skip flew the CH-53’s in the Naval Reserve and attained the rank of Captain and commanded Reserve Helicopter Squadron JIM-19 Norfolk, Virginia. Skip initially flew First Officer on the B-737 in Norfolk and then First Officer F-100 in Charlotte.

Skip, for those of us who were lucky enough to have known him, was our most unforgettable character. Skip was a born leader with a personality and sense of humor that made everyone immediately like him. Skip was the center of attention wherever he went and made lifelong friends all around the world with people from many walks of life. Skip also had a great gift for letting you know when you said or did something stupid: you got “the famous look.” It was a cross between a scowl, a smirk, and a laugh about to burst out, all rolled into one. At that point all you could do was laugh at yourself for earning Skip’s obvious disapproval.

I really cannot find the words to truly describe what a wonderful person Skip was and how much I respected him, and now miss him. Skip lived everyday of his life to the fullest, right up to the bitter end. He never gave up, he never quit, and he never lost his sense of humor. Skip loved his wife Pam and his children Christopher and Cathleen more than anything else on this earth. Skip was taken from us way too soon, but he touched and influenced more lives than most of us will in our own lifetime. Skip’s friends and family will always remember the good times and special moments we shared with him.

Skip was a great husband, father, son, brother, and friend. He was a great aviator whose flying skills will be missed greatly by this pilot group. Skip was the kind of guy we want our sons to grow up to be like and our daughters to marry.

To my friend, “The Star Fleet Commander Pilot and Patriot,” thanks for your friendship; thanks for the memories. You will never be forgotten.

See you later buddy!

Jim Morris (CLT)

B-737-3/400