

Last Flight Receptions



Lew Milliner (PIT)
Chairman, Membership Services

Captain Mike Vaughan was scheduled to make his last flight on Saturday, September 25, 1999. This was the final leg of what should have been an uneventful four-day trip. However, on day three his MD-80 experienced a crack in the windshield. Mike's Saturday flight was, at first, delayed. After several hours it was determined that the airplane should remain on the ground until late Saturday evening so the Company decided to deadhead Mike and his crew back to Pittsburgh.

Since the last leg of Mike's trip was now cancelled, he and his crew waited patiently to be deadheaded back to Pittsburgh. Retired Cap-

tain Larry Dull carefully tracked the events as the Membership Services Committee continued with the plans for Captain Vaughan's retirement reception in Pittsburgh. When an arrival time and flight number were finally determined, CFR was notified and the arrangements for a water halo and reception were finalized. Just as Murphy's Law would have it, Mike's deadhead flight arrived in Pittsburgh much earlier than previously scheduled. Therefore, CFR was unable to meet the flight with a water halo. However, the Membership Services Committee, with a complement of line pilots and ALPA staff, were at the gate to greet Captain Vaughan on his



Mike Vaughan is surrounded by his crew and Membership Services at his last flight reception

arrival. Captain Larry Dull pinned Mike's retirement wings on his lapel. Mike and his crew and passengers were then treated to a retirement cake specially decorated in his honor.

Captain Mike Vaughan made his final retirement flight on the jumpseat of a B-737 instead of his rightful place in the left seat of his beloved MD-80. As the photos show, Mike and his crew thoroughly enjoyed his retirement flight reception in spite of the chain of events and "Murphy's Law"!

Water halos and white cake

Captain George Yurt made his last flight on Wednesday, October 13, 1999. George's last leg was carefully tracked from Kansas City to Pittsburgh arriving at the gate at 1500. Accompanying George on his last trip were his wife Margie, his daughters Heather Yurt and Kelley Moore, his son Scott, his granddaughter Caroline Moore, and his very proud parents, Marie and George R. Yurt.

Captain Yurt was first congratulated by ATC then greeted by CFR with a water halo. (He had his cockpit window open!) As he entered the jetway, he was congratulated by Membership Services Committee Chairman Lew Milliner, who pinned his retirement wings on his lapel. Upon entering the gate area, he was welcomed

by a host of line pilots, ALPA staff and passengers. Captain Yurt, his family, his crew and passengers were then treated to a retirement cake in his honor. The committee learned that George loved white cake so they made sure that his retirement cake was made with white batter and specially decorated for the occasion.

Volunteers welcome

The retirement receptions continue to be very rewarding and successful. If you are interested in joining in, please call Lew Milliner at 724-728-8665 (ASPEN #5824) or Trish Schurman at the MEC Office at 800-USAIRMEC (ASPEN #6500). Remember to check the bulletin boards in the crew lounges throughout the system where upcoming retirement receptions will be posted. If you are working and notice that a retirement flight is arriving, please make every effort to get to the gate to congratulate a fellow pilot who has given so much to enhance your profession.



George Yurt's last flight and his family are greeted by Membership Services