



Donald Ray Christy II

November 11, 1961 - December 1, 2020

Donald Ray Christy II of Commerce Township, passed away suddenly at 59 years on December 1st. Survived by his dearly loved children Spencer and Samantha, his loving mother Sandra, sister Cindy (Kevin) Furlong, and preceded in death by father Donald Ray Christy. Don was a successful pilot at Northwest/Delta Airlines for the past thirty years. Loved spending time with his kids, hanging out by his pool and taking walks with his dog, Django. Due to Covid-19, no services will be held and a memorial will be held at a later date. If desired, donations can be made to the ASPCA or MARL at aspca.org and marleague.org Expressions of sympathy www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

Comments



“ Don was one of my very favorite captains to fly with. A true professional, and a class act.

Jim Williams

Jim Williams - December 08, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ Clear skies and calm waters and say hi to your dad as you two fish the Gulf. I miss you.
Mike H

Mike Hintzen - December 06, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ You will be missed my friend. From Zantop to Northwest/Delta, a true aviation professional. I would many times mention that Don and I started together at Zantop and invariably first officers would always comment on how nice it is to fly with Don. Truly one of the Good Guys. Rest in Peace Don.

Ed & Betsy Mueller

Ed Mueller - December 05, 2020 at 10:05 AM



“ As a Northwest/Delta flight attendant, I had the pleasure on several occasions to fly with Don. He not only was a kind, thoughtful man but was an excellent pilot. My condolences to his family.
Cindy Hagelin

Cindy Hagelin - December 04, 2020 at 11:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Christy II.



December 04, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ When you are a pilot for a rather large company like Delta, almost every month you will likely pair up with colleagues you’ve never worked with before. After completing all of our professional tasks and when reaching cruising altitude, we tend to finally relax for a moment. It is very typical to use that moment to start inquiring each other how you got into this flying business.

This is the story I tell every pilots how my career started.

...I was a struggling college student majoring in Architecture. I majored in Architecture since I’ve always wanted to do something out of ordinary. About halfway through my sophomore year, I begun to struggle. I realized that I lack very important element to succeed as an architect, and hence started to put a huge toll against my motivation. “Cs” and “Ds” were beginning to pop up. I was doomed

However, in late February 2002, a miracle happened.

I walked into my Marshall Art class for a 1-hour workout. Recognizing my entrance into the Dojo, my instructor hastily approached me and said, “Maki, I want you to meet someone.”

It was Don.

Instructor continued, “Don is a pilot for Northwest!”

Don and I immediately started talking airplanes. I am confident that I looked like a tiny kindergarten kid from bystanders’ point of view simply because my childhood dream was to become a pilot. He was my shining Rock Star.

“I’ve always wanted to be a pilot Don... I’m extremely envious of you.”

“Well, why didn’t you become one?”

“My eyes are bad.”

“So, you are wearing contact lens?”

“Yes.”

What Don said immediately after shocked me forever.

“As long as your eyes are corrected, you can be a pilot!”

It felt like God pressed the “Pause Button.” Everything stopped for a brief moment. I was also in some sort of denial of what I’ve just heard. I wanted to ask Don to punch me, but I didn’t want to give him a weird first impression... So, I asked him again to repeat what he said.

“Maki, you can become a pilot as long as your eyes are corrected to 20/20.”

That day, everything changed. My concentration level plummeted at school more than ever. I came to realize that it was time for me to give Don a call for advices. Soon after I left him a voicemail, he called me back. Unfortunately, I was not

available when he called, but yet today I clearly remember his voice in my analog cellphone.

“Hey Maki. This is Don Christy. Sorry I missed your call. I understand that you are interested in flying career. Give me a call, and we ahhh will get started.”

I initiated my flight training in early April 2002 at the same flight school Don initially trained, I transferred and graduated WMU just like Don did, flew at the regional airlines to build experiences just like Don did, and I finally made it to Delta where Don and I are now work colleagues, 12 years after when we first met. ...

Don changed my life. Don truly was my miracle. Still today I tell my friends that Don is my ‘Pilot Godfather.’ I am forever thankful for what he did for me and forever grateful of your involvement to my life.

Don, I wish you the very best tailwind for your last flight.
Thank you for believing in me.
I am one of your accomplishment also.

Much condolences to Don’s beloved Family.

PS: Enjoy your reunion with your beloved DC-9, Don!

From:
Maki Mitsuya
and the entire Mitsuya Family

Maki Mitsuya - December 04, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ I was so shocked and sad to hear of Don's passing. He was "one of the good ones," out of the Captain group on the 737 in Detroit, which is saying a lot because it's a great group! I'll miss our Caribbean flying, Don, and am sad to think we won't get to fly together again. Sending love and strength to the family during this difficult time!

Ellen Fortin - December 04, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ I am so shocked to hear of Don's passing i just flew a Cancun trip with him in October! Had a nice chat while waiting for our plane to be cleaned. So sorry for his loss. Such a nice person and great pilot! He will be missed. You have my sincere sympathy.

Diane Kalota

Diane Kalota - December 07, 2020 at 05:27 PM



“ Thoughts & Prayers to you all during these tough days ahead. RIP Don.



Cathy Hansen-Gazlay - December 03, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ I'm at a loss for words in my friends unexpected passing. He was a consummate professional, a deeply loving and devoted father, and my friend. Cheerful and friendly as a Captain. He was my friend, confidant, and buddy every trip. Many of my best professional memories are with Don. I pattern much of my Captain "style" after Don's leadership. I will always miss him. Still at a loss for words.

Mark Roberts - December 03, 2020 at 07:51 PM



“ Hello Christy family and friends!

I'm a fellow Northwest Pilot and have known Don for thirty years. We haven't seen each other in decades but we always remember Don as a gentle and kind man who we liked being around. We had dinner with him and I believe his wife's name was Jennifer in Bonita Springs, FL years ago.

Denise and I were deeply saddened to hear of the news. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family. .

Please take my email to share of a future memorial that we might attend.

Fraternally, Captain Mark and Denise Seifried of Naples.
mseifried5@comcast.net

Mark Seifried - December 03, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family of captain Kristy, who allowed me to fly on a fam trip from Detroit to Saint Louis on a DC9. Kind man whose co-pilot jokingly nicknamed as grumpy, and loved speaking about his daughter. You will be missed Captain!
Rosette La - Delta Air Lines airport agent

Rosette La - December 03, 2020 at 04:53 PM



“ Hey Don this is your red coat at Delta. Thanks for all the Talks You were so proud of your family and your life rest in peace my friend fly high in the sky

ken cavanaugh - December 03, 2020 at 03:47 PM



“ My sincere sympathy. I work at Delta as an agent and it was always a good day when I got to see Don, full of smiles and stories. He would always make me laugh. Samatha and Spencer, he loved you two so much! Mrs. Christy is was easy to tell how much he loved his mother as well. Thank-you for sharing him with us. Prayers.
Denise

Candy Williams - December 03, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Christy II.



December 03, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ Truly saddened to hear of Don's passing. We were friends in college and flew together with his dad at Zantop. Don stood up in our wedding. We had some great times together over the years. Blue skies and tailwinds my friend.

Paul and Pam Bialik

Paul Bialik - December 02, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ Don lived on Palmer Drive the same time my husband and I did, he lived across the street. He was a very nice man and always willing to help if needed. I was impressed by his love for his mom and his children. My condolences to the family. Norma Anderson

Nirma Anderson - December 02, 2020 at 09:22 PM