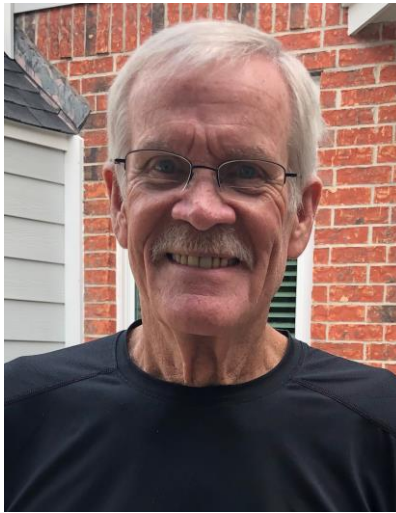




The sad news that Golden Eagles member and retired Continental Captain Tom Harper has flown West was just received from Golden Eagles member Captain David Hughes. A copy of David`s email message is posted below.

The Golden Eagles sends condolences to Captain Harper`s family and we wish them peace and comfort as they grieve their unfortunate loss. May Tom have favorable winds, smooth air and clear skies for his flight West. Rest in peace Captain, and Godspeed on your final journey.

Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.



Captain Tom Harper

January 24, 1946 - August 21, 2024

David's email:

Tom Harper, who was a dear friend and my training partner with TIA, passed away yesterday from the ravages of West Nile Virus. Tom was on an Alaskan cruise with his wife, Patti, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with their three children and six grandchildren when he was stricken. He was taken off of the ship in Canada and life flighted back to Houston where he spent 3 weeks in ICU. He appeared to improve this past Monday and was moved to a rehab center, but yesterday he took a turn for the worse and was returned to the hospital, where he succumbed later in the day.

Tom was a Naval aviator and while stationed in Guam, met his future wife Patti. He flew corporate for a short while until being hired by Texas International Airlines for their first class in almost a decade in 1978. We trained together on the DC-9 and started a friendship that has lasted for 46 years. When Tom was mandatory retired at 60, he along with 30 of us other CAL pilots flew B777-300's on contract for 3 years with Jet Airways of India on the back side of the earth. What a culture shock that was after our careers in the U.S.

After our aviation careers were over Tom took up golf, was an experienced sailor taking many sailing vacations with family in the Caribbean, and devoted grandfather. Tom had several major medical issues over the past decade, but being deeply religious he and Patti faced each new hurdle bravely and endured the grueling recovery.

David Hughes



Dave Newell

Golden Eagles VP/Email Coordinator

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