

# THE GOLDEN EAGLES





CAPTAIN MIKE BENDER

The sad news that Golden Eagles member Captain Mike Bender took his last flight West this morning, October 14, 2018, was received from Golden Eagles member Captain Wayne Nakagawa and from Mike's wife Arohanui. Mike had been ill with a brain tumor for some time.

Arohanui has shared the entry she made in Mike's Caring Bridge site with us, and it is posted below. Details of services for Mike will be announced when they are provided by the family.

The Golden Eagles sends its condolences to Mike's family and wishes them peace and comfort at this difficult time. We also wish for Mike favorable winds, smooth air and clear skies for his final flight. Rest in peace Captain Mike, and Godspeed on your journey West. You will be missed.

*"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings:  
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth of  
sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things You have  
not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and sung high in the sunlit silence.  
Hovering there, I've chased the shouting wind along  
and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*Up, up the long delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,  
where never lark, or even eagle, flew;  
and, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
the high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
put out my hand and touched the face of God"*

For some time, Mike has had his final flight plan in place. He was awaiting gallantly for his clearance to taxi out for his final flight.

"Cleared for takeoff Captain Bender."

"V1, Rotate, V2. Gear Up, Flaps up"

God's speed my love on your final flight into the arms of God.

I lost the love of my life earlier today. A loving husband, father and grandfather; a genuine friend to all who knew him. I am forever your Maori Girl,

Arohanui.

Together with Mike's two sons, Mark and Matthew, we will in the near future post information regarding Funeral Services.



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