

# Aerie News

The Eagles Aerie News of the USAir

Fourth Quarter 2025

Soaring Eagles

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Webmaster	Paul Sturpe
Secretary	Patti Nagy
Past President	Joe Kernan

Advisors to the Board – Bill Leefe, Butch Schofield, Ron Natalie

As we kick off the new year, you may notice this quarterly update for Q4 2025 is arriving a bit later than usual. We took the extra time to bring you some **exciting new additions to the Soaring Eagles board of directors**, and we think it was worth the wait. Thanks for soaring with us! Future newsletters will continue to land right on schedule.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

410-991-6070

Captain Dave Pfaff

[pflyer34@gmail.com](mailto:pflyer34@gmail.com)

It's a new year and the weather is cold. We, the board, are warming up to bring you the best ever convention at the Marriott in Tampa. Last year's convention was a major success, having 70+ attendees.

Joe, the past president, continues to guide me with the operation, continuing Monday and Thursday stories and updates to the members. You can't keep a good man down. Three valuable board members stepped down at the end of their terms, and three very capable members have stepped up to take their positions. If you haven't already done so, please send your dues, due this February, to Eric Litt, the new treasurer. You can find the information on the USAirsoaringeagles website. Thank you all in advance, and please block

October 23-25 for this year's convention. We plan on having quite an outstanding event. All be well. Dave



**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(813) 892-4725

Captain John Nagy

[John.n1944@gmail.com](mailto:John.n1944@gmail.com)

We had a great turnout for the 2025 Soaring Eagles Reunion. Many thanks for all who attended. I would like to thank Joe Kernan for his many years of remarkable leadership. Judy Schmidt insured that the reunions ran smoothly. Our scribe and skilled beverage manager, Judi Todd, was at the social epicenter of the hospitality suite. Judi volunteered to continue her mixologist endeavors for the coming reunion. Paul Sturpe, the talented webmaster. Our Treasurer, Andy Skiba, kept a close eye on the finances without the benefit of insider trading. A big thank you to Eric Litt for assuming the Treasurer's role and my incredible wife Patti Nagy for assuming the Secretary role.

Wishing good luck to Dave Pfaff to provide fearless leadership in the many years to come. Please continue to provide updates for future Aerie editions, and plan to attend this year's reunion in TPA.

## **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Captain Steve Flom

[stevav8or@aol.com](mailto:stevav8or@aol.com)

Dear Members,

Happy 2026. This year is going to be full of changes and fun. We will be doing some new things at the reunion and we look forward to everyone's enthusiasm and energy.

I have made several New Year's resolutions this year (ha, we will see how many can keep). Besides just going to the gym regularly, one of them is to pay my dues early. We all get very busy and time seems to go so fast, so it makes it easier to get it done right away.

I wish everyone good luck in keeping their New Year's resolutions and have new happy adventures this year.

Steve Flom  
Second Vice President



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

(813) 892-4757

Patti Nagy

[pattinagy65@gmail.com](mailto:pattinagy65@gmail.com)

Hello, all you loving Soaring Eagles!

For those of you who don't know me *officially* (and for those of you who already know me very well 😊), I'm Patti Nagy, proud wife of Captain John Nagy, and your new Secretary for the Soaring Eagles.

Yes, I'm *that* Patti.

The one with a glass of wine in hand.

The one walking all over the place.

The one chatting, laughing, and catching up with just about everyone in the room.

I'm honored (and honestly very excited) to be stepping into this role, and I'll be working on our newsletter to help keep everyone connected, informed, and smiling throughout the year. My goal is to make it feel like a warm reunion on paper — full of stories, updates, memories, and moments that remind us why this group is so special.

Please know that you can reach out to me anytime. If you have:

- News to share
- A story to tell
- Photos, milestones, or memories
- Or anything you think our members would enjoy hearing about

I'd love to include it. This newsletter is for *all of us*, and it's even better when many voices are part of it.

I can't wait to continue getting to know everyone even more in this new role, and of course, I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the next reunion, with wine, walking, and conversations included.

With love, laughter, and gratitude,  
Patti Nagy



## WEBMASTER'S MESSAGE

(828) 478-1133

Captain Paul Sturpe

[sturpe@gmail.com](mailto:sturpe@gmail.com)

Our new treasurer took over the position on January 1, 2026. If you are looking to pay dues, they are not due until February 1, however, some of you like to pay early.

There are several ways to pay, listed by the most popular methods.

1. Pay by check, money order or cash at your own risk, sent to:  
Soaring Eagles  
c/o Eric Litt  
11702 Lariat Ln  
Oakton, VA 22124-2323
2. Pay via PayPal accessed via <https://usairsoaringeagles.org> and then clicking on the "Pay Dues" button.
3. Pay via credit card also accessed via <https://usairsoaringeagles.org> and then clicking on the "Pay Dues" button.

If anyone has questions or problems using the website to pay dues, please let me know since this is a fairly new method of paying dues.

Also, remember to check our website frequently. Here is the link.

[The Soaring Eagles of USAir](#)

If you want to contact any board member, their contact information is in the Aerie. Current and past Aeries are prominently displayed on the website.

Once again, let me know if there is anything new that you would like to see on our website. Also let me know if you see any errors.

So long until next quarter.

Paul Sturpe, Webmaster

[webmaster@usairsoaringeagles.org](mailto:webmaster@usairsoaringeagles.org)

## **TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

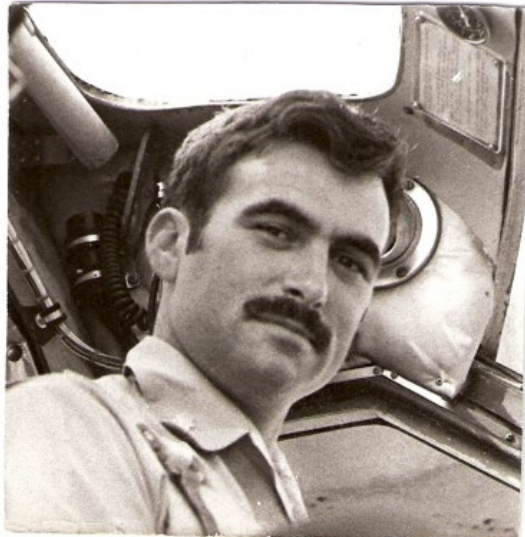
Captain Eric Litt

[ERLitt@msn.com](mailto:ERLitt@msn.com)

From the Soaring Eagles new Treasurer. I didn't step aside fast enough to let the volunteer pass.

A few things. I was hired by Mohawk Dec. 1964 and flew the CV240/440. There were eight in the class to start, six finished. I was next to the youngest, Tom Block was the youngest in the class. 36 1/2 years later I retired in August 30, 2001. In between I flew all the aircraft on the property except for the Nord and F-100. I was on and off the R & I Committee, Negotiating Committees, and merger Committees.

I figured a way to stay in good with the company was to marry the boss's daughter so the 1st Day of the Week, 16th day of Month of AV in the year 5734 and 51+ years ago I married Janice Nash.



## **PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(276) 632-9941

Captain Joe Kernan

[Joekernandc9@yahoo.com](mailto:Joekernandc9@yahoo.com)

A recap of the 47<sup>th</sup> Soaring Eagles Convention/Reunion

Since Donna was unable to make the trip to Tampa, and I had already paid for two, I decided to invite my friend Stanley Oleinik as my guest. Stanley is the oldest son of my boyhood friend Stanley Oleinik who I will refer to as the older Stanley. The older Stanley and I were always in contact with each other from childhood until Stanley died in 2020 during the covid outbreak. Ever since his

father's death the younger Stanley and I had been trying to honor my friends request to have his ashes distributed in a Mangrove Swamp in Punta Gorda. The trip to Tampa presented a good opportunity to finally fulfill my friends' last wishes after nearly five years.

Since I still had some items to pass off to President Dave Pfaff, and since driving to Tampa had become my custom Stanley and I departed Martinsville Va on Oct.23<sup>rd</sup> around noon and overnighted at my sisters in Atlanta Ga. We departed Atlanta early on the 24<sup>th</sup> and arrived at the hotel in time to help President Pfaff with some decorating in the Hospitality Suite, and in time for the Board Dinner that evening. Stanley couldn't get over how warmly he was received and accepted by the group, but I wasn't surprised at all.

On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> For the first time in years I did not go on the shopping trip but did go to the Wine & Liquor outlet for a major buy. The Cadillac trunk was packed. Once again, the "Recurrent Training" held in the hospitality suite was a big success, and I found out that I am only 5' 4 ½ "inches tall. All this time I thought I was 6 ft tall. Now I know why I could walk under the DC 9, as opposed to walking around it.

Saturday morning, the 27<sup>th</sup> Stanley and I woke early so we could finally lay his father to rest per his wishes and pick up the cruise tickets on the way back to the hotel. Ponce DeLeon Park in Punta Gorda was to be the final resting place for my friend Stanley, and I now understand why he chose it. Stanley the younger and I were able to find the boardwalk where his father used to access the area, but it was closed due to some storm damage. Time to improvise. I was able to scramble over the construction barrier and distribute a small amount of Stanley's ashes there while Stanley the younger read some appropriate scriptures for the occasion and it was decided to spread the rest of the remains in the water near the boat launching ramp. I was honored to be able to participate in fulfilling my friends last request and while doing so I looked up to see a man who had been launching his boat but had stopped as he understood what I was doing. We made eye contact, and he said, "A friend?". I replied, "Yes a good one" and thanked him for his courtesy.

Off to the cruise company to pick up the tickets and embark on another enjoyable cruise on Tampa Bay. Sometime during the Saturday night auction President Pfaff and I thought we would be without a candidate for Secretary/Editor Aerie , as the position was being vacated by Judi Todd . Thanks to Judi for her seven or so years' service in the position along with keeping the hospitality suite humming all that time. Since it never hurts to ask, I asked Patti Nagy, wife of John Nagy if she would be interested and willing to stand for election to the position. After

some initial resistance, and my explanation that the job was easy after you got used to compiling the Aerie she agreed. Thank you, Patti. Problem.....in order to serve on the Board one has to be a member. Since there is more than one way to skin a cat we took care of the issue Sunday at the Business Meeting.

Sunday morning I woke up early to go to Dunkin Donuts to pick up the pastry order for the business meeting and save the Soaring Eagles some money. I got back in time to pick up Leon Young, Bennett & Kathy Chamberlin, and Lorraine Genola who attended 7:30 Mass with me at Christ the King Catholic church about two miles from the hotel.

Once we got to the elections portion of the Business Meeting the issue of Patti Nagy's need to be a member to serve on the board was dealt with, the membership voted unanimously to make her an honorary member. Since our Constitution & By-laws permits honorary members to serve on the board if they pay dues, Patti will actually be paying to serve. One of the first things Patti will be doing is to publish the officer reports for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Aerie . Perhaps it was a little late due to logistical problems, but it got published.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Judy Schmidt Colbath, and Judi Todd for their service to the board, most of which took place during my tenure. As I said earlier Judi Todd not only published the Aerie, but she kept the hospitality suite hospitable.

Judy Schmidt Colbath served as First Vice President since 2017 and interacted with the banquet staff over the years with menu selections. She also took care of provisioning the hospitality suite after we discontinued the Meet & Greet.

Thanks to both of these ladies for their service.

Andy Skiba joined the Soaring Eagles in 2021, and agreed to take over the Treasurers position when Paul Sturpe assumed the role of Webmaster. Andy did the heavy lifting during two conventions. Thanks to Andy for the good job.

Finally, I took personal pleasure in watching from the sidelines as President Pfaff conducted his first Convention/Reunion the IOE was over, and he did a great job.

I was honored beyond words when he presented me with the beautiful Eagle statuette at the banquet Sunday night.

If you want to see some old friends and have a great weekend look for the dates, and plan on being in Tampa in 2026. Don't forget to pay your dues the end of February.

Stanley the younger, feels like he is part of the Soaring Eagles Family. You who were there made it so.

Thanks, Joe



Soaring Eagles President Dave Pfaff presents a beautiful Eagle to Past President Joe Kernan aka (Shorty) at the conclusion of the 48th Annual Soaring Eagles Convention.