

In Memory

Arnie Kihn

We are saddened to announce the death of Frontier retiree, Arnie Kihn following a lengthy illness on June 9, 2007.

Arnie Kihn (pronounced keen) grew up in Wyoming and Colorado. His father worked in road construction which kept the family on the move. He graduated from Aurora Central High in 1958 and went to Emily Griffith Opportunity School and received his Aircraft Mechanic License in 1959.

That same year, he was hired as a Junior Mechanic at Continental Airlines in Denver , and married the woman of his dreams in 1960.

Arnie became a Sheet metal Mechanic working on Vickers Viscounts, DC-3s, CV-340s, DC-6s and Continental Airlines "First in Denver with Jets" the Boeing 707. Mr. Kihn's career and education was put on hold when he was called to active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis serving as a Jet Engine Mechanic at George AFB. After active duty he returned to Continental Airlines until the company left Denver and moved the Maintenance Base and General Offices to Los Angeles in 1967.

At that time Arnie was able to roll his tool box over to the original Frontier Airlines to work as a mechanic. He became a MX Planner for the CV-580 and later a sheet metal Supervisor 1969 for BOP (Heavy Maintenance) on the CV-580 and B-737. From this point Arnie remained in management. In 1973 Arnie started his 7 year stint as a Maintenance Supervisor in Saint Louis. Returning to Denver Arnie worked 3 years as Supervisor Tech Services and 6 years as Manager EOS (Engine Overhaul Shop).

When Frontier shut down in 1986 Arnie went full circle returning to Continental Airlines as Manager of ACS (Aircraft Component Services) in Denver for three years. Continental Airlines once again decided on moving the Maintenance Base out of Denver, so he accepted a similar position at Alaska Airlines in Seattle as Manager of Support Shops from 1989 to 1996. In 1996 the then V.P. of Maintenance (John Bartram) asked Arnie to come to the New Frontier and ramrod the startup of Heavy Maintenance, to enable us to perform our own C-Checks. In addition to obtaining space, tooling and parts Arnie was responsible for the hiring of numerous Technicians, many of whom are with us today. This process was reported to have saved Frontier an estimated one million dollars in the first year alone. Mr. Kihn continued as Manager Base Maintenance until 2000 when he was asked to work as a MX Programs Manager. Two years later Arnie became a Director for the first time and was responsible for all of the Line Maintenance Operation.

Arnie's final position before retiring from Frontier Airlines was Director of Aircraft Support Services which encompassed Maintenance Control, Tech Services, Field Maintenance, MEL Subject Matter Expert and MX Planning. He retired from Frontier on September 30, 2005. Arnie believed his employees are his most important asset and always supported them and their family's needs. He epitomized the old world work ethic; "If you're here 8 you work 8". Arnie taught us to be frugal with company money, voluntarily helped out other Departments, and encouraged involvement in the needs of the Community.

Services will be on Thursday June 14 in Brighton . For further details, please contact MX Support Services.