

KILIAN GUN BILL

FRONTIER NEWS



A newsletter for the employees, families and friends of the Old Frontier Airlines

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the air line employee



The legacy of Bill Kilian

(See writeup, Page 3)

THE KILIAN GUN BILL

Protection for station, ticket agents: ALEA, Frontier Airlines join forces to gain new law banning loaded firearms in checked luggage

In response to three years of pressure from ALEA and Frontier Airlines, Congress on February 18, 1980, passed legislation which has a direct effect on the safety of ticket and station agents—especially in the western U.S. Called the Airline Employee Protection Act of 1980, the new law amends the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 and makes it a federal crime to place loaded weapons in checked baggage.

Need for greater protection became evident in late 1976 when S. W. (Bill) Kilian, a Frontier station agent and ALEA member at Stapleton International Airport, Denver, was killed in the accidental discharge of a loaded revolver in a duffel bag. Several on-the-spot surveys conducted by Frontier at Denver and other stations turned up numerous loaded guns in hunters' baggage, and it was apparent that neither Colorado state laws nor Federal Aviation Administration rules were being observed.

Spearheading the drive for a federal law were two Colorado legislators, Senator Gary Hart and Representative Pat Schroeder. Their efforts achieved success February 18 when President Jimmy Carter approved the bill along with the Noise Abatement Act which had also been submitted for his signature.

As shown below, Hart and Schroeder were honored during special ceremonies at Stapleton on March 16. Besides President Glen Ryland of Frontier and representatives of ALEA, Bill Kilian's mother and his son were

also present. Ryland undoubtedly spoke for everyone when he said, "In the past, careless gun shippers could get off with only a slap on the wrist. Now, the prospect of a year in jail or a stiff fine—or both—will make them aware of the risk they take when they attempt to bring a loaded gun aboard an airplane."

Representing ALEA in addition to Regional Director Casey and Master Chairman Lamkins were officers of Kilian's Sub-Council 73b—Secretary, Frank Monheiser, Vice Secretary, James Meade, and Asst. Secretaries Lester Simpson and Jack Latino.

The Airline Employee Protection Act of 1980

Title V, Section 502 of the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979 amends Section 902 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to read as follows:

With respect to any aircraft in, or intended for operation in air transportation or intrastate air transportation, whoever—

"(A) while aboard, or while attempting to board such aircraft has on or about his person or his property a concealed deadly or dangerous weapon which is, or could be, accessible to such person in flight;

"(B) has placed, attempted to place, or attempted to have placed a loaded firearm aboard such aircraft in baggage or other property which is not accessible to other passengers in flight; or

"(C) has on or about his person, or who placed, attempted to place, or attempted to have placed aboard such aircraft any bomb or similar explosive or incendiary device; shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."



AT THE SUGGESTION OF the FL ALEA Master Executive Council, ALEA presented engraved silver trays to U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder and to U.S. Sen. Gary Hart (2nd from right) in appreciation for spearheading the gun safety bill through Congress. Doing the honors are Master Chairman Jake Lamkins and Regional Director Jack Casey. Youngster at left is Kilian's 11-year old son, Bill Jr.



"A TRIBUTE TO HIS FATHER..." That's how Regional Director Jack Casey describes the Airline Employee Protection Act as he reviews a copy with young Bill Kilian Jr. who was given the pen used by President Carter. Also shown as they relax after the ceremony in Frontier's offices at Stapleton are Mrs. Elizabeth Kilian, mother of the deceased ALEA member, and Hank Lund, Frontier vice president—sales and service.

FEB 19, 2022 WAS THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE KILIAN GUN BILL

After Bill Kilian's tragic death on the DEN ramp November 23, 1976, it became known that there was no federal law banning loaded firearms in airline passengers' checked luggage. Efforts began almost immediately to rectify that omission. The progress of the gun bill is told in the following articles from the Frontier News employee newsletter.



BILL KILIAN

http://FAL-1.tripod.com/Bill_Kilian.html

FRONTIER MAKES PROGRESS WITH GUN BILL

Two years ago this November, Denver Station Agent Bill Kilian was killed by the discharge of a loaded firearm in a checked bag. Since that time Frontier has taken a leadership role in working to prevent such a tragic accident from happening again.

"Immediately following Kilian's death, we tightened our own rules for the handling of loaded firearms in checked baggage," explained President Al Feldman. "Through our security, public affairs and marketing departments, we have sought industry cooperation in this area and initiated

steps to secure federal legislation to make checking a loaded firearm a criminal offense."

In April 1977 a Frontier-supported Air Traffic Conference resolution went into effect that provided for a certain degree of uniformity in carrier handling of checked firearms. Airlines were made responsible for informing passengers that firearms would have to be declared. This past April Frontier efforts resulted in an amendment to an FAA rule which further tightened requirements on the carriage of firearms.

Spurred by the accident at Stapleton, the Colorado legislature last year became one of the few to pass legislation making it a crime to carry a loaded firearm into a public transportation facility.

"We strongly support the uniform application of this law," emphasized Feldman. Frontier has worked with the Air Transport Association on testimony presented to congressional subcommittees that would amend the federal firearms statute. It looks hopeful that action taken in the next session of Congress will make the introduction of a loaded firearm in checked baggage a criminal offense.

In the memory of Bill Kilian . . . Frontier will keep working until that goal is achieved.

-Sep/Oct 1978 Frontier News

GUN BILL UPDATE

Legislation spearheaded by Frontier and the Air Line Employees Association (ALEA) to protect employees from loaded guns in passenger luggage has received wide support in the U.S. Congress.

37 members of the House of Representatives co-sponsored the Air Line Employees Protection Act of 1979 introduced by Representative Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.). The legislation makes it a federal crime to place a loaded firearm in checked airline luggage.

Frontier and ALEA have led an aggressive campaign in support of the legislation since Denver station agent Bill Killian was killed when a loaded revolver in a duffel bag he was handling discharged in 1976.

Representative Schroeder will reintroduce the legislation this summer as HR. 4926, Killian's employee number.

Schroeder's office has received substantial mail supporting the legislation, largely a result of the campaign mounted by Frontier and ALEA. Frontier urged citizens, Senators and Representatives in 21 states to support the legislation.

The Senate version of the bill was introduced in May by Senators Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and William Armstrong (A-Cob.). It has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

-Jun/Jul 1979 Frontier News

GUN BILL UPDATE

Legislation to protect airline employees from loaded guns in passenger baggage was reintroduced in the U.S.

House of Representatives in late July by Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.).

The Air Line Employees Protection Act was assigned the number H.R. 4926, the employee number of Denver station agent Bill Killian, killed in 1976 when a loaded gun went off in baggage he was handling.

Frontier and the Air Line Employees Association (ALEA) continue to press for passage of the legislation, which makes it a criminal offense to place a loaded firearm in checked luggage.

The Senate version of the bill, introduced by Senators Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and William Armstrong (R-Colo.), has received support among members of the Senate Commerce Committee.

According to Bill Schore, a Hart legislative assistant, "We are encouraged the legislation will pass, either on its own, or as an amendment to another bill."

-Aug/Sep 1979 Frontier News

KILIAN GUN BILL PASSES

Legislation making it a criminal offense to place loaded weapons in checked airline luggage was passed last month by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Contents of the Air Line Employees Protection Act, introduced by Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), were included in the Airport and Airway Development Funds Bill, passed by the House Oct. 22, 1979.

Frontier and the Air Line Employees Association have pressed for passage of the legislation since Denver station agent Bill Kilian was killed in November, 1976, when a loaded gun went off in baggage he was handling.

Passage of the Senate version of the gun legislation is imminent, according to Bill Schore, legislative aid for Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.). The measure was introduced in the Senate by Hart and Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.).

-Oct/Nov 1979 Frontier News

Gun Bill ceremony at Frontier Headquarters in Denver, Colorado in April 1980. L-R: William Kilian, Jr., Colorado's U.S. Representative Pat Schroeder, Frontier station agents and ALEA representatives Les Simpson, Jack Latino, Jim Meade & Frank Monheiser, and Colorado's U.S. Senator Gary Hart



GUN BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Legislation spearheaded by Frontier and the Air Line Employees Association (ALEA) to protect airline employees from loaded guns in passenger luggage was signed into law Feb. 19 by President Carter.

The new law, which makes it a federal crime to ship loaded weapons in airline luggage, calls for penalties of up to five years in jail and fines of up to \$5,000 for offenders.

Until now, the penalty for putting loaded weapons in checked baggage was a civil fine of up to \$1,000.

The legislative drive was prompted by the death of Frontier station agent Bill Kilian on Nov. 24, 1976, when a weapon discharged inside a duffel bag he was moving from one flight to another at Denver's Stapleton International Airport.

The legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) and in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), co-sponsored by Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.).

"In the past," says Frontier President Glen Ryland, "careless gun shippers could get off with only a slap on the wrist. Now the prospect of going to jail should make them wise up to the safety risks they are creating."

Ceremonies were held March 16 at Frontiers headquarters in Denver to salute the new law. Among those attending were Mr. Kilian's son, Bill Jr., 11, his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Kilian, his stepdaughters, Mary-Jean Carson and Janeen Marie Carson, his brother-in-law Don Cameron, Hart, Schroeder, Ryland, ALEA Regional Director Jack Casey, and other airline and union officials.

Family members were presented the pen used by President Carter to sign the gun safety law, along with framed copies of the legislation.

"The new law culminates nearly three years of work by Frontier, ALEA and the congressional leaders," Ryland says. "Thanks to the new law, airline employees and passengers alike now have an important new safeguard on the books."

-FL News, April 1980



Bill's son, who goes by Stephen, still lives in Denver and is a member of the FLacebook group where he often posts items to his FLamily. Other members of Bill's family are also members.

GUN FIRE FROM BAG KILLS WORKER

Denver, Colo. — UPI

A loaded pistol, tucked inside a military duffel bag, accidentally discharged Wednesday (Nov 24, 1976), killing an airline station agent standing only a feet way.

Police and FBI officials identified the victim as Stephen William Kilian, 31. A Frontier Airlines employee for the past 10 years, Kilian, a father of three, was the only one injured by the gunfire. The pistol discharged as it was being transferred from a commercial airliner outside a concourse at Stapleton International Airport.

Authorities said Kilian was struck once in the back of the head by the bullet from the .357 magnum Luger pistol. He was killed instantly. The gun was one of two loaded weapons discovered inside the bag.

"The agent was just transferring luggage from one flight to another," Frontier Airlines spokesman Larry Bishop said. "The gun went off accidentally when the luggage was being moved. It wasn't dropped."

The owner of the duffel bag was identified as Augustine S. Hart. Officials said the man boarded a Frontier plane at Omaha, Neb., and was transferring to another flight to Billings, Mont. when the accident occurred. He was taken into custody for questioning by both federal and local officials.

Hart declared that weapons were in the duffel bag before he boarded the plane in Omaha, and officials said the luggage carried a tag warning that guns were inside.

Bishop said the FBI intervened in the case to determine if federal laws were violated because of loaded weapons being carried in the luggage.

"In certain cases. It is a federal crime," Bishop said. "If its not a crime, it's at least a very foolish and dangerous thing to do."

-The Milwaukee Sentinel newspaper on Nov 25, 1976