

John Frederick Kelly

This Guest Book will remain online until 11/23/2013.

June 25, 2005

I just learned of John's passing yesterday. Pam I am so sorry for your loss. John was a wonderful man, and an inspiration to everyone who ever worked with him. I first met John in the Army in Germany. We were both assigned to a unit that was not a very fun place to be. But you could always count on John to make the best of a bad situation. He never bellyached about the bad conditions. Over the next 15 years we kept in touch periodically. What a treat it was to get an email, page or phonecall from John (usually out of the blue when you needed it the most). I last ran into John in Palm Springs last summer. He was cheerful as always despite the oppressive heat. I never imagined that this would be the last time I saw him. He helped countless people and an EMS pilot, and he inspired anyone that ever worked with him. I will sorely miss him.

~ Skip Liker, St. Charles, Missouri

January 12, 2005

We first had the pleasure of meeting John and Pam in 1998 while on vacation, and then, thru a wonderful twist of fate, our paths crossed again on a 2003 trip. Getting reacquainted we were reminded of how deeply John and Pam loved each other and how joyfully they approached their life together. Happily, later that same year, fate intervened again and brought us to the Charlotte area allowing us to spend a wonderful afternoon at their home. It is bitterly painful to realize now that that day was the last one we would spend with John. But we will always be grateful for the brief time we knew him. Our prayers are now with Pam and the Kelly family as they cope with the monumental loss they have suffered.

~ George and Bonnie Lavezzi, New York, New York

January 09, 2005

My deepest sympathy to Pam and the Kelly Family. From that first time you met John you knew he was genuine, was of integrity and that you had a friend for life. I always looked forward to a page from John to see if we might be flying to the same place for a chance to catch up. I still remember introducing "Indian" cuisine to him in White Plains and with sweat on his brow saying..."boy that's some good stuff...". We will miss, but not forget his calm presence.

~ Eddy Swamy, Holland, Michigan

January 07, 2005

It was a pleasure to serve as John's first officer on his last tour in the Citation ten. John was one of those pilots that you instantly like and bond with. I feel lucky to have met him and can say without hesitation that we enjoyed every day of that week. John's love of flying radiated from every pore and it was a pleasure being around him. God speed Mr. Kelly, you have left an indelible impression on my soul.

~ Vic Maggio, Williamsburg, Virginia

December 30, 2004

Hello, Very sorry and my deepest sympathies to the Kelly family. I didn't know him but, we are all still brothers here at Netjets. I did recognize him when I saw his photo. I probably met him on the road somewhere. Again, my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

~ Scott V. Edwards, Dallas, Texas

December 29, 2004

I flew with John twice (2 tours) at Netjets, but I only needed a day to realize what kind of Man John was. I am saddened with his passing but feel happy to have known John and been a part of the energy that he exudes.

~ David Thatcher, Wellington, Florida

December 10, 2004

Dear Pam,

I am so sorry and shocked to hear you lost your wonderful husband so suddenly. My heart, tears and prayers go out to you. Remember all that's good and pray for more to come. John will always be with you in spirit. My deepest sympathy,

~ Jill Bauschlicher, Tavares, Florida

December 09, 2004

I had the privilege of flying Skycranes, Chinook and Medevac helicopters with John. He cared about his fellow soldiers, he cared about the patients he flew, he cared so much for his friends and family. I will miss him and never forget the way he treated everyone he met.

~ Duane Dillingham, Annville, Pennsylvania

December 08, 2004

We have just learned of John's death and are heartbroken. Our deepest condolences go to Pam whom we hope we will see again soon. A poor example of a cousin I have been, but my heart truly hurts with John's passing! A wonderful person and man amongst us!

~ Larry Herbert, League City, Texas

November 30, 2004

I met John in Columbus, OH while we both were attending initial training at FlightSafety. What a great guy! We stayed in touch, and met up while he was visiting his sister here in Portland. I got to meet his wonderful wife Pam and his sister Judi. I was treated like a long time friend. I cannot tell you how nice it was to have someone to talk to about the transitions I was experiencing with my recent move to the West Coast. Always a warm positive voice to make me feel better about things. We shared an amazing bottle of wine with views of the Cascades a few days before he and Pam headed back to NC.

Pam, I miss his friendship. I am so very sorry.

~ Alexander McNeer, Portland, Oregon

November 19, 2004

My deepest sympathy to Pam and John's family and friends. Words don't describe how sad it is that such a special man has left this earth. I know in my heart he is watching over Pam and the dogs from a very special place. Again, my deepest sympathy.

~ Kim Johnson

November 16, 2004

I never got to fly with John. And I'm learning that I missed out. The first time I heard about John was on a day I decided to wear my "Alabama slip-on work BOOTS". Immediately I heard tons of John stories. They were great. Several months later, I got to meet John for a couple of minutes. I was still wearing my "BOOTS". First thing he said to me was: "Don't let them pick at you about your boots, boy!". We talked for about fifteen minutes that night. I felt like I had known him for years. Our conversation was shortened by a flight, and the last words he said to me was: "Get Hot!" He was a great guy, and everyone here just loved him.

~ Chadrick Sims, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 14, 2004

I personally did not ever get to work with John at UT. However, I did get the chance to speak with him as he flew over and as he would call to "Check" up on things. He was always a friendly voice and had good things to say. He always seemed to truly care of the people he had been around and always offered an encouraging word. May his family always be blessed.

~ Larry Reid, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 14, 2004

It was with great sadness that I learned of John's untimely passing....These days it is so rare to encounter individuals that can light up a room just by being there. John possessed a unique combination of wit and intelligence that helped many of us through tough days. His love of flying was demonstrated through his ability, but his love of people was shown by how he lived.

"Launch the Fleet" there's a new angel looking over us.....

~ Walter Idol, Dandridge, Tennessee

November 14, 2004

"Clear on the right, clear on the left, set in the front, are you set in the back? Let's get hot!" How many of us heard these words over and over? I will always remember my time with John. How he would correct me when teaching that "hill" and "care" are not a two syllable words. Pam, Lisa and are praying for you. My heart is broken, but I cling to the hope of seeing John again.
John 5:24

~ Robert Byrd, Clinton, Tennessee

November 14, 2004

It is with great sorrow to learn of John's sudden death. He was without a doubt, a dedicated professional, who I immensely admired. I loved to talk aviation with John, while he was so knowledgeable and caring. It was truly great to know John and for that, I am most appreciative. He will be missed; my heart and prayers go out to family and friends.

~ Michael Englebert, Farragut, Tennessee

November 14, 2004

"Fly on the wings of the eagle today, because the wind may not blow tomorrow."-unknown

This quote reminded me of John. We worked together at UT Lifestar and his friendship and the common bond that we all shared with John will never be forgotten. He worked hard to achieve new goals and encouraged and inspired others. We will miss him dearly. Chris and I send our deepest sympathy to Pam and John's family.

~ David Barrs

November 13, 2004

John Kelly made you feel like you were a friend and that you were important to him. He had time for you when you needed his time. Dan would always appreciate when John would call and say, "Let's go have a pop and talk." Those times will always be cherished. Dan would always try to bring one of his sons with him because John's stories captivated them and they liked being with John, also. John was the first pilot Sue ever flew with in EMS. He was a great example and an inspiration to all who came in contact with him. John and Pam will always be loved and a part of our lives.

~ Dan and Sue Toberman, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

I learned of John's death on the very day that I buried my own father. The loss of my father was expected, but John's death was difficult to accept. John Kelly lived life with a persona and attitude that made everyone around him better for having known him. He was one of the best pilot's I have ever known, not just because of his technical skills, but because of his desire and love of flying. His jubilant personality and kind heart were the reason he was loved by everyone who knew him. His pilot skills have helped to save countless lives, but his personality touched many more. John lives on through the memories and phrases we continue to use today, such as "let's get hot kids" and "very good". John, we will continue to "make it happen", though we will do it with a heavy heart. You will be missed, but your spirit will be kept alive but all those that you touched and influenced. Rest in Peace, my friend.

~ Rocky Walker, RN, EMT-P, Maryville, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

He will be sorely missed, but I know he is soaring above us now.

~ Fred Yahr, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

Whenever we pass your house on Hiawatha, we think about you and John and how much fun it was to run into you all walking your dogs. We missed you guys a lot when you left and now it is even sadder. Pam, you and John have made our lives special by encouraging us to adopt a dog from the humane society and by starting bookclub. We are thinking of you with deepest sympathy. John was a wonderful friend and neighbor.

~ Judith and Scott Kinzy, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

Many times life is cut short for reasons we will not know until we meet again. John was an exceptional person who never met a stranger and was loved and admired by all who knew him. I will forever remember his enthusiasm, professionalism, and hearty laugh. God Speed, John

~ Bejie Hauk, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

John was an incredible person, friend and pilot. He was a pleasure to work with and always took the time to explain things about his profession. I always enjoyed his teasing about our southern slang. Even after he left LIFESTAR occasionally we would hear him on the radio saying "hello kids" as he flew over. "Boots" you will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Pam, family and friends.

~ J. R. Gore, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

John will be missed. There was never a time that I can remember that he was sad. His uplifting personality was a great asset to all who knew him. John was a pilot at LIFESTAR in Knoxville, TN and he was very well respected in the Aeromedical service. I always felt very "safe" with him and I knew he would get us there safe. I will never forget the first time he ate the Tennessee tradition "Moon Pie". I will always remember the look on his face when he said " that is the worst tasting thing I have ever put in my mouth". God bless you John. Pam, Trust in God.

~ Kenny Trent, Tazewell, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

Met John when he was with UT Lifestar. I was taking flying lessons at the time and John always took the time to spur me on. If all humans were like John the world would be a much better place to live. You have my prayers.

~ Mike Wyatt, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

November 13, 2004

To a friend and co-worker who I admired and respected for all that he got out of life. A true achiever who did not let obstacles stand in his way to success. You will be missed by all.

~ Jon Kirschbaum, Abu Dhabi, UAE

November 12, 2004

John was always so full of life. If we were having a slow day at LIFESTAR , his verbage was always, "let's get hot." You always knew his heart and soul was in everything he set out to accomplish. He will dearly be missed by all of his friends at LIFESTAR.

~ Debbie Pickett, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 12, 2004

I will always treasure John's friendship and the way he assisted me as a new EMS pilot at UT Lifestar in Knoxville, Tennessee. He set the professional example for all EMS pilots to follow and I work hard to follow his lead. Every time I file IFR to a point in space or break off an instrument approach to go on scene and return to base in IFR conditions I will think of John "Boots" Kelly. Godspeed John and have a good flight!

~ Charles "Chuck" Nabors, Cookeville, Tennessee

November 12, 2004

John and I were roommates at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. John was always postive and many times inspired me to do better in school. I have thought about John many times since school and am saddened by his death. My wife, Jennifer, and I express our deepest condolences to Pam and his family.

~ Steve Hays, Celina, Ohio

November 12, 2004

John will be sorely missed. He was a remarkable pilot, teacher, friend, and role model. I always enjoyed flying with John - every flight was an adventure. A consummate professional, he was always looking for a way to "make it happen". Fond memories will include "double double", "let's get hot", "alright, kids", and his chastising me over my chili-cheese fries. Godspeed, Boots. We'll catch you later, bub.

~ Drew and Cheyrl Slemple, Talbott, Tennessee

November 12, 2004

I first met John at UT Lifestar, in Knoxville, TN Aug. 1998. I was the pilot hired to replace him. I soon learned that he had left some very big "boots" to fill. Thankfully John decided to return a month later and to sheppard me, as I needed all the help I could get! I learned a great deal from John, enjoyed our trip to Flight Safety and learned more. John was among the best pilots I have ever flown with, beyond that John was a great friend and I will miss him.

~ Michael Paul, Knoxville, Tennessee

November 12, 2004

John was truly a thoughtful, caring friend, who always lived life to its fullest. We will remember him for his quick wit, easy smile and genuine personality. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pam and all of John's family and friends.

~ Pat and Mike Fickes, Tempe, Arizona

November 12, 2004

No one can explain why such good people are taken away from us so suddenly. Thankfully no one can take away the wonderful memories we have from knowing such a great person as John. Love Rick, Carol, Adam, Brianna and Tiger

~ Rick Chouinard, Cenntennial, Colorado

November 12, 2004

John will certainly be missed. He is the kind of person who is a friend to everyone. John will be remembered by me for a long time for his friendship, his dedication to his profession, and his genuine personality. Our prayers are with his family. Fly safe John - you are the best!

~ Steve and Aimie McCarty, Wartburg, Tennessee