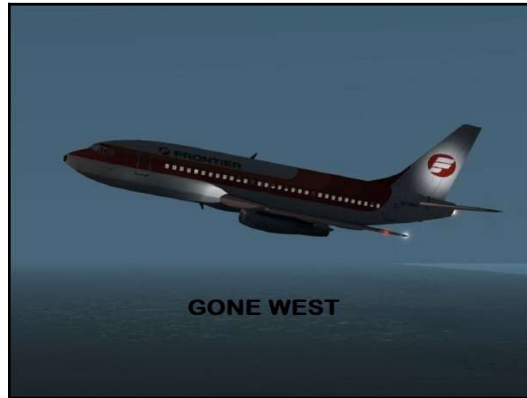


# JOHN THOMAS SIEMS

October 2, 1938 - March 29, 2023



## *Captain Tom Siems Flew West on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.*

Rory Siems here, youngest son of Tom Siems, aka John T Siems aka JT Siems. Survived by his wife, Mary Bishop Siems, a former Frontier Airlines flight attendant and ticket counter agent, and his 5 children, Todd Siems (Captain Southwest Airlines, former New Frontier, GP Express), Shannon Raab, (Flight Attendant Piedmont, US Air, Us Airways, American Airlines current), Devin Siems (Flight Attendant, United Airlines), Tiernan Siems, (Cessna Citation Pilot, to Governor of Nebraska, and Pilatus PC-12 Pilot), and Rory Siems, (Instrument rated single engine private pilot).

I'm both happy and sad to report the flight west of our Father, Tom Siems, a legendary pilot. He passed peacefully surrounded by his 5 children and 5 grandchildren in New Smyrna Beach, Florida on Wednesday March 29th.

Tom was born and raised in Nebraska, the son of a Pilot and Nurse. In the 1980s, Tom and Mary and the children owned and operated an Ice Cream Parlor, Mom's Ice Cream Parlor in Arvada, Colorado. He enjoyed hosting competitive volleyball games at a court behind his fishing cabin.

Tom's father, John who was the family's first aviation pioneer, established airports in Columbus, Nebraska as well as the current airport in Fremont, Nebraska. Tom Siems naturally started flying at a very young age. One of Tom's earliest jobs flying included him flying to deliver chickens to farmers elsewhere in Nebraska.

Tom's first airline job came as a pilot flying for Frontier Airlines. While working for Frontier, he met a Frontier flight attendant, Mary Bishop, who he soon married. Together they had raised 5 children.

Notably, while flying for Frontier Tom piloted the first passenger airline flight into Columbus, Nebraska which was the same airport that his father established.

Tom, was a pilot whose name wasn't famous, but recognized by his peers as an expert and while he approached his duties with the highest levels of skill, and finesse. He expertly diagnosed and corrected an emergency approach situation while pilot in command of a disabled 4 engine McDonnell Douglas DC-8, with a severed flap mechanism that rolled into a critical and potentially lethal bank angle on descent. He was known for his particularly smooth landings. That quality of a smooth and calm professional translated into all other areas of his life.

Tom began his airline career as a First Officer flying the Douglas DC-3 for Frontier Airlines. While working for Frontier, he flew the DC-3, Boeing 727, Convair 340 and Convair 580, Boeing 737, and McDonnell Douglas MD-80. Then he was a Continental Airlines MD-80 Captain and a UPS DC-8 Captain. Long Range Over Water Qualified, he made frequent trips to Hawaii.

Tom had a passion for fishing, He established an aquaculture business raising fish including freshwater fish and later, exotic prized Japanese Koi. Even while elderly, Tom was able to accomplish unfathomable feats including landing a 460 pound Marlin off shore of Kona, Hawaii with his fishing cohort Fred Yeck.