FLOWN WEST



Captain Martin Joe WOOD

October 16, 1936 – July 3, 2023



Martin Joe Wood was born in Regina, Saskatchewan on October 16, 1936 to I.H. (Woody) Wood and Doris Wood, nee Ludditt. After Woody joined the RCAF, he and the family moved to Vancouver and then Victoria during WW II

As a young child, Joe enjoyed many happy days playing with his childhood friend, Barry Philbrook, in Victoria's View Royal neighborhood where, at that time, there were few houses.

In 1948, Joe and his father moved to Calgary, Montreal then Edmonton. Joe joined the RCAF at 17 after having scored the highest mark in Canada on their entrance exam. He flew CF-100's during the Cold War and when based in Ottawa, met and married nurse Rita Bedard.

Joe was a member of The Caterpillar Cub – on one of his first training flights on the CF-100 at Cold Lake, the aircraft suffered major control problems which necessitated Joe and his Instructor successfully bailing out. After completing his five-year term in the RCAF, Joe resigned his commission and he and Rita relocated to Victoria where he worked for the BC Government while flying with VC-922, the RCN Fleet Air Arm Reserve Squadron based at Pat Bay Airport.



VC-922 Naval Air Squadron Badge



Blazon

In 1964, they relocated to Australia where Joe joined Qantas Airlines, flying the B-707 to many exotic and interesting places around the world. During this time, he had postings to Tahiti, Fiji and England. Joe and Rita's adventures were plentiful, creating memories that lasted a lifetime





Joe joined Pacific Western Airlines in 1969 and flew B-707, Convair 640, B-727, B-737 and B-767 aircraft. He was very involved with the CALPA pilot's union being elected LEC Chairman, MEC Chairman and PWA Pilot Merger Committee Chairman. His talents did not go unrecognized by PWA Management and he soon joined their management ranks serving as Chief Pilot B-727 in Calgary, Chief Pilot Northern Region in Edmonton and Director Flight Operations in Vancouver then later in PWA'S Calgary Head Office. After the merger to form Canadian Airlines International, Joe became the Director Flight Training and Standards. His last few years saw Joe flying the B-767 to Europe - places he loved. Joe retired in 1996 and moved to Victoria.

Joe's Retirement Flight, October 1996



Joe was an intelligent, decent man, a true Libra who always saw both sides of a problem and acted accordingly. He had a charisma that could not be denied. He was loyal to his friends and they to him, having many friendships that survived the years. He was a voracious reader and surrounded himself with books of all types that he kept in his vast home library. He loved old wooden boats and vintage classic cars as demonstrated by the classic Jaguar and Bentley that he drove around Victoria. He also had a passion for large dogs, owning many bull dogs and bull mastiffs.

Joe was a lover of great company, a good meal, fine red wine, single malt scotch whiskey and extra dry gin martinis with four olives and had been known to partake of a Havana cigar from time to time.

He loved to spend an evening sitting in his recliner, sipping brandy, reading one of his many books, his favorite bulldog or bull mastiff at his feet.

He leaves to mourn: His wife Rita, sister Linda, brothers Peter and Robert, nephew Howard, cousin Resa and family, cousins Kristian and Nick Dorken and many, many friends.



A celebration of Joe's life will be planned for this fall in Victoria with details to be communicated at a later date.