



College of Professional Pilots of Canada
Collège de Pilotes Professionnels du Canada

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Honoring Captain Noreen Newton: A Skyborne Legacy"



On September 25, 2023, the world bid farewell to Captain Noreen Newton, a pioneering female aviator, author, and champion of women's rights. She succumbed to a brief yet fierce battle with cancer. As a board director within the College of Professional Pilots of Canada for nearly two years, and concurrently serving as the Chair of the Communication Committee, Noreen made significant contributions to the association, fostering effective communication, inclusion and recognition, and driving initiatives that will benefit the College for years to come. She has left an indelible mark on the organization's mission and growth and the College has decided to underline her contribution by renaming the Communications Committee the "Noreen Newton Memorial Communication Committee"

Throughout her remarkable 36-year career as a commercial airline pilot, Noreen was renowned for her unwavering commitment to advancing the cause of women in aviation. She fearlessly challenged the industry's entrenched barriers and the prevailing male dominated ideologies.

She achieved the distinction of becoming one of Jazz Aviation's earliest female captains, holding this esteemed position on a variety of aircraft, including the Dash 8-400, British Aerospace 146, and Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ).

Not just a trailblazer in the skies, Noreen was also a passionate writer and an endlessly inquisitive soul. In her early fifties, she made the bold decision to return to university, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communications, and, a decade later, a master's degree. Her master's thesis, entitled "Equal Space on the Flight Deck: Challenging the Myth of the Professional Pilot" garnered recognition as it clinched Royal Road University's Michael Real Award for scholarly excellence. Noreen's storytelling prowess didn't go unnoticed either. In 2022, her gritty and thought provoking narrative, "24 Hours," made the longlist for the prestigious CBC Nonfiction Prize, further underscoring her talents.

Noreen leaves behind her sons, Jack and Paddy, her brothers Harry, Barry, and Sean, her sister Ailis, and her mother Bernie. She was preceded in death by her brother Paddy and her father Basil. Noreen would have been both astounded and deeply appreciative, perhaps even slightly bashful, at the outpouring of affection from all those moved by her unwavering commitment, courage, and effervescent spirit.

For some, their profession is a mere vocation, for others, it's a responsibility. But for Noreen, it was a journey of exposing her own vulnerabilities, boldly navigating life's storms, and generously creating opportunities for those fortunate enough to follow in her footsteps.

Noreen herself encapsulated it perfectly with these words: **"Once upon a time, in the quiet recesses of my youth, there was a single day that forever altered the trajectory of my life. It was a day of profound transformation, a day when innocence gave way to experience, and the world beyond beckoned with both promise and peril."**

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