

# THE GOLDEN EAGLES





## **Captain Richard Rittenhouse**

**July 27, 1952 - June 5, 2024**

The sad news that Golden Eagles member Captain Rich Rittenhouse flew West on June 5, 2024, was just received from Golden Eagles member Captain Scott Schulze. The original information that Rich had passed away was provided by former Continental pilot Paul Villery III and was relayed to us through Scott Schulze. A copy of the email sent by Paul Villery is posted below. This brief notice of Rich`s passing has been provided pending the receipt of additional information and has been provided in order to give our members a timely notice

of his passing. Additional information will be provided when it is received.

The Golden Eagles sends condolences to Rich`s family and we wish them peace and comfort as they grieve their unfortunate loss. Rest in peace Captain, and Godspeed on your final journey.

Email from Paul Villery III:

*Hello Dave,*

*This is Paul Villery. I am very saddened to inform you and the Golden Eagles that my friend of 59 years flew west on Wednesday June 5th, at his home in Caldwell Idaho. I sent you this information early Thursday morning but I must have gotten the email address wrong because it bounced back today.*

*Rich and I talk daily, but I was unable to make contact on Wednesday; his family went to check on him and found that he had passed away. The preliminary Dr. report listed the cause of death as complications due to Congestive Heart Failure.*

*Here is a little bit of history.*

*Rich and I met in 1965 in Jr. High school. We went to High School, Jr. College, College together. We were enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. We both earned our Bachelor Degrees and received our Officer commissions in the Air Force through the ROTC program. We both flew the Rescue HC-130H at March AFB. Then a career at Continental Airlines.*

*Rich and I talked daily. Rich was a great guy, a great pilot, and a great friend.*

*I will let you know what the final arrangements will be when they become available.*

*Please pass this information on to the Golden Eagles.*

*Please feel free to contact me any time if you have any questions.*

*Thanks Dave.*

*Paul Villery III*

If any Golden Eagles member wishes to contact Paul Villery, please contact Dave Newell for the contact information.



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