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POWER OF GIVING

JACQIE CALLAHAN

Honoring His Roots and the Museum’s Collection

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MUSEUM OF FLIGHT TRUSTEE STEPHEN Elop (pictured above) is fascinated with technology—how it’s formed, how it grows and how it’s used in nearly every part of our lives. His parents both had careers in science, and he spent a lot of time with his grandfather, a former wireless operator who sent and received Morse coded messages onboard ships during the first and second World Wars. Stephen’s enthusiasm for telecommunications began to build, and he went on to earn a Bachelors of Engineering in computer engineering and management from McMaster University in Ontario – he even helped lay ethernet cables around the school campus!

Stephen discovered aviation about the time he graduated from college, and given his proficiency for tinkering with complicated technology, it was a match made in heaven. “I was looking for an entirely new hobby that forced me to do something I knew nothing about, and that required new skills,” he says. Stephen learned to fly in the city of Brampton near the Great Lakes, which has icy weather conditions similar to Seattle. As his career in computing and telecommunications grew and began to take him all over the world, Stephen continued to fly whenever he could.

Stephen settled in the Seattle in 2008, and immediately became more involved with local aviation enthusiasts. Although he had visited The Museum of Flight, it was the deep personal connections he forged with our donors and trustees that truly inspired him. “People like [former Board of Trustees Chairwoman] Anne Simpson worked their magic to draw me into a more active role,” he says. “That in turn has reinforced my passion because I’ve been able to meet all sorts of new people from different walks of life who also share my interest in aviation.”

Today, Stephen is a new trustee on the Museum’s Board and has chosen to make a gift in honor of one of his favorite aircraft: the Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellation on the front lawn. The “Connie” is painted in the red and white livery of Trans-Canada Air Lines, an airline that still operates today under the name Air Canada. “Both in its livery and in its history, the Constellation has proud Canadian roots,” explains Stephen, “I could think of no better aircraft to honor as a Canadian pilot.”

The Lockheed Constellation is the first aircraft that has been specifically honored by a donor like this outside of a fundraising campaign and we hope that more will follow. By making a gift to The Museum of Flight that can be paid over several years, donors are supporting our efforts to preserve, restore, educate and inspire well into the future. Stephen’s philanthropy ensures that the Museum can continue to provide a diverse range of students with the tools to explore the world around them, and the knowledge and passion to pursue careers in STEM.

“The real magic of the Museum is that it combines an active educational element that contributes to the multi-prong societal needs of more graduates in STEM areas, support for students and parts of our community that may be underrepresented, and to improve diversity in the aerospace industry,” says Stephen. “The aerospace industry reflects the needs of our society at large: increased diversity, reduced carbon footprint, more accessibility for all members of society, and the leading edge of technological advancement”

For more info on how you can honor an aircraft at the Museum, please contact Vice President of Development Trip Switzer at 206.764.5721.

In Memoriam

Aldon J. Anderson
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Robert L. Ball
Alta J. Barer
LaMar D. Barrows
Edean Berglund
Robert R. Bezzo
Warren J. Bonus
Arlisha Case
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