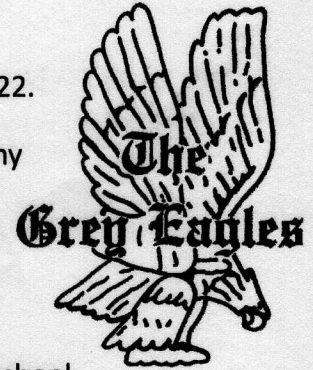


Fellow Grey Eagles,

I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself as your Grey Eagles President for 2022.

In short, I was born into this career, starting out in the Virgin Islands and working with my father in his commuter airline. In 1964 we were operating DeHavilland Doves, Herons, DC-3s, and Curtis Commando C-46s. The Twin Beech flights remain a vivid memory: island hopping, hauling everything from caskets and fish to local dignitaries. There was never a dull day!



When Dad retired in 1969, my wife and I started the only FAA- and VA-approved flight school in the Virgin Islands. The business ran a course of some 50 years, and as an FAA Examiner for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, we certificated some 1,000 pilot licenses. In addition, we operated a full service FBO in St. Croix and later in St. Thomas. Many of you who are ex-military may have stopped in our facility over the years, as we had the military fuel contract. You may have picked up a Bohlke pen, flashlight, comb, hat, or some of the famous "Cruzan Rum" handed out to our fuel customers. It was an exciting time in our lives, which our son now carries forward.

In 1968, I joined Trans Caribbean Airways as a First Officer on the 727 based out of John F. Kennedy. This was a big upgrade from my Twin Beech days. My initial tenure with Trans Caribbean was short and sweet, about five months, only to be furloughed until June of '69, recalled, and furloughed again in the fall of '69. When recalled by American two years later, I was no longer a co-pilot, but a flight engineer still based in New York.

Six years later, I transferred to DFW, where I stayed for the next ten years and then moved on to Miami to finish my career in 2006 on the 777. I always commuted from St. Croix, which is still my home. Needless to say, it was a 37-year journey and a memorable one at that.

I joined the Grey Eagles shortly after turning 50. I can say that in the 25 years I have been a member I have made so many wonderful acquaintances. Can you believe this year marks 60 years since the Grey Eagles was organized?

Going into 2022, I consider myself privileged to lead our group, and I humbly accept the challenge!

We hope the upcoming convention will be the best ever! This year it will be held in North Carolina at the Marriott Charlotte City Center Hotel from October 26-30. We have a negotiated rate of \$155 per night plus tax, with no resort fee. We picked this site to attract members who have not attended a convention and new members who have recently joined. We have optional tours planned which include the NASCAR Hall of Fame, the Billy Graham Library, a cruise on Lake Norman, and a visit to the Mint Art Museum; we will also have a banquet dinner with a world-class ventriloquist for special entertainment. Of course, the best part of any convention is making acquaintances.

In the coming months, I will be attending Grey Eagle luncheons throughout the country, and I hope to meet those of you that I do not know. Again, thank you for this opportunity, and I hope to see you in Charlotte.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Bohlke'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Bohlke, President 2022