

THIS GUY'S THE LIMIT™

JEFF HILL, SR.

On December 20th, 1996 he flew non stop from Tel Aviv to JFK and parked his “seven four” for the last time. After thirty three years with TWA and a total of over twenty thousand, seven hundred hours in the heavens, Jeff Hill, Sr. stepped aside to let the “younger guys and gals have some of the fun”. It is difficult, if not impossible, to imagine that Jeff Hill has spent two and one half years of his life, in the air!

Incredibly, of that time,

over 4,500 hours were spent as Captain of TWA 747s. That's over six continuous months at the controls of the largest aircraft in commercial aviation! For recreational pilots, this feat is astounding.

Jeff Hill is a kid from Madison Wisconsin. On his tenth birthday his mom, Mary, paid for an airplane ride in a Taylorcraft. Jeff's dad, Lyle Hill, an innovator in the feed business, had developed the successful Vita-Plus pre mix line and would have preferred that his son enter college and follow in his footsteps. But, Jeff had decided to fly.

By the time he was 16, and still in High School, young Jeff Hill was a licensed pilot. Upon graduation, he was off to Purdue's Aviation Maintenance Technology program where he earned his A&P rating. Then, on to Purdue's Aviation Flight Technology program.

In 1964 he joined TWA when the fleet was converting from pistons to jets. Jeff, along with all the other pilots “complained” about flying the Constellation. In 1968 he made captain and flew one airplane after another. A Corvair out of Chicago. The DC-9 up and down the Ohio. All around the country on the L-1011 and the 727. And, all around the world on the 707. “The best thing that happened to me at TWA was meeting my lovely brunette.” Sharon (Ainsworth) Hill, once a TWA flight attendant and now an operating room RN, has been married to Jeff for over 34 years. The Hills reside in Woodstock and have three remarkable sons. The boys, Jeff, Mike and Steve all learned to fly at One Zero Charlie, with dad instructing from the right seat. Jeff Hill will tell you, “If you got something out of aviation, share it with others”.

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CHARLIE**

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