

# Charles "Chuck" Kavcsak



30 Year Service

I was born in Brooklyn, NY and at the age of 5 moved to New Jersey when my parents, as many children of immigrants, left the city. Upon graduation from Woodbridge High School in 1964 I received a Congressional appointment from Representative Ed Patton to join the 10th class at the then fledgling United States Air Force Academy.

I was assigned to "Big Three" 3rd Squadron and then "Playboy" 19th Squadron during the two year shuffle. Attracted to airplanes and the lure of future flying, I majored in Aeronautical Engineering making the Dean's List eight semesters of study. During my First Class year, I participated in the initial AFA flight training program in T-41C aircraft where I obtained my private pilot's license. Our class of 1968 graduated in a historic year of social and political strife with racial issues and an expanding Vietnam War.

I attended flight school at Moody AFB, Class 70-01, in Valdosta, Georgia earning my Air Force wings while being named a Distinguished Graduate. I received my requested assignment to be a T-38 Instructor pilot at Williams AFB in Phoenix, Arizona.

T-38 IP School was at Tyndall AFB in Florida. Arriving at "Willy" I was assigned to Tipper Flight where my first student was Dick Covey, a classmate. He had been part of the AFA Purdue University Astro Master's Degree program. We became life-long friends and he went on to great things, piloting four space shuttle missions. Following that historic space program through him was a highlight. I completed my tour at Williams AFB as a Flight Examiner and separated from the Air Force in June of 1973, seeking a civilian flying career.

Life continued with years flying by and things working out well, not without luck. In June 2006, I retired from American Airlines having flown over 21,000 hours, 27 years as a Captain. I had flown the B-737, B-727, MD-80, B-757, B-767 and B-777 and at times domiciled at Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Chicago, and Raleigh, NC where I have lived for the past 30 years.

Today I continue to enjoy life and retirement with my wife, Lynn, as we closely follow our three grown children, Kelly, Chris and Courtney. Reading, travel and golf take up my time, but I still dream of and miss flying.

I hope this saber will take on meaning for you as you become an Academy grad and begin your career, starting with the world's best assignment, flight school.

Sincerely

Chuck Kavcsak, USAFA '68