



## Nigel Ian Eling

November 22, 2022

Dear family and friends of Nigel Eling,

On November 22nd the beloved Captain Nigel Eling passed away after a few years of injury and ill health. We miss him greatly but are comforted by the knowledge that his suffering has ended, and he has reunited with his family and lifelong friends that have passed on before him.

Nigel leaves behind his sister Peggy, two daughters Lorna and Gail, sons-in-law Chris and Bill, as well as two grandchildren, Christian (Cookie) and Alex, and ex-wife Coral. He was predeceased by his parents Henry and Edna, brother Derick, and sister Monica. He will be missed dearly by us but also by the many other neighbours, friends, family, and colleagues that were lucky enough to know him.

Nigel could always be counted on to have an ironed shirt and pressed pants even if he had absolutely nowhere to go – and would always get there 5 minutes early! He was a harsh tea critic, an avid collector of every size and shape of plastic bag, and always ready to give you a punch to the knee if he heard you curse out loud. He kept every single knick knack, card, and childhood work of art that any of us ever gave him, proudly emblazoned with the date and reason for the gift. His love of a good greeting card or take out menu was only surpassed by his love for his two cats, Leo and Jordy, whose photos adorned every single vertical space in his home. Some of his claims to fame were flying an airplane full of elephants, meeting Helen Keller (who signed that he was handsome), and weighing a whopping 14 and a half

pounds at the time of his birth. We always knew when he was on his way from the incredibly loud reversing car music that was sure to both alert and astound all who deigned to pass by.

Jokes aside, our beloved “Pa” was always a first call in a crisis and had a knack for calming down a room. As Gail (his younger daughter) always said, “If you gave Dad an inch, he’d give you back a mile.” Everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing “The Captain” probably has a story about how he’d helped them in some way – perhaps offering gentle advice, a ride in his beloved Mazda, or takeout of some kind (what else would he do with all those menus). Nigel was warm, kind, and a devoted friend to everyone who knew him.

Please feel free to share your photos, memories, and tributes of Nigel. Since he had such a wide social circle, it would be so lovely to hear different stories from everyone. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Ballantyne Project at the following link: <http://www.theballantyneproject.com>. If you would like to e-transfer, please put “in memory of Nigel Eling in the message box. And e-transfer to [theballantyneproject@gmail.com](mailto:theballantyneproject@gmail.com)

The Celebration of Life for dad is still to be arranged and decided whether in person and/or hybrid event.

Feel free to email me at [gail.eling77@gmail.com](mailto:gail.eling77@gmail.com) so I have your emails for updates. Thank you for your patience.

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ I have been off the radar with the Eling family, I have never forgotten them. When my family first immigrated to Canada in 1967 Nigel & Coral were of great support to my father, David Van Haeften who passed away in August 2014. Uncle Nigel was always friendly, helpful & fun. The last time I saw Lorna & Gail was when I was 10 or 11, I am now 65 (66 in August of this year). Thank you Uncle Nigel for you help & support in the early days. My heartfelt condolences to Aunty Coral, Lorna & Gail. I may have been off the radar, but I never forgot you all. R.I.P. Uncle Nigel, may God's angels always be with you.

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**Caroline Van Haeften** - June 11, 2023 at 09:46 PM

GN

“ Nigel was one of the most beloved persons during my time in Air Canada reservations...kind.....gentle and a great conversationalist. When I would get down or stressed.....I'd go out for a visit with Nigel. Bless you and may you rest in eternal peace. My condolences to Nigel's dear family.

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**Gillian Nichol** - December 03, 2022 at 09:36 AM

WK

“ I will always remember Nigel for the wonderful stories he liked to tell. The rogue flight over the Himalayas, the elephant Cargo that swayed the plane he was piloting ,meeting with Helen Kellar and riding a motorcycle in a circus roundabout .  
Generous with sharing wisdom of travel, cooking and of course dancing. I will miss the way he lovingly addressed Gail as “Darling “on their many phone calls. A very classy gentleman. Rest in peace  
Captain

*Bill Klassen*

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**william klassen** - November 29, 2022 at 09:14 AM

LG

“ I met Nigel in 1952 through our neighbour Colin Henzie, who lived down the road from my home. Nigel was a perfect gentleman, always very respectful, kind & giving. He would remember special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries.

*He was one heck of a dancer. I loved dancing with him especially the FoxTrot & Waltz. The last time I spoke with him in Bangalore was the late 50's, when he left for Calcutta.*

*Years later we met up with him here in Canada at a dance organised by Dougie Peters, & it was there that I introduced him to my husband Lionel & they got on like a “house on fire” talking about motorbikes as they both rode bikes then, but Lionel did not get to meet him in Bangalore (though he knew who Nigel was) & ever since then we have been great friends, visiting once a month for a luncheon. Nigel would bring out his “101” Menus to pick from but we left the decision to him as he knew the different restaurants to visit.*

*When he was in hospital we visited him twice & then last year we saw him in the “Care Home”. We were surprised to see him in a poor condition.*

*We are saddened by his passing, and will miss talking to him twice a week.*

*Rest in peace, dear Great friend. Rest in peace meeting up with your beloved cats Leo & Jody. Some day we will all meet up in heaven and again be one happy “Bangalore family”. God Bless.*

*Kay & Lionel Gidney.*

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**Lionel Gidney** - November 27, 2022 at 03:34 PM



“ *What a beautiful obituary!....thank you for sharing that with us. Our condolences to you: Gail & Bill, Cookie & Seamus, Alex, Lorna & Chris and Auntie Coral xoxo Noelle, Bill and Ev Uncle Nigel was a true gentleman and a kind, caring friend to our Mom and Dad...always generous with a compliment or a quick joke. I remember Uncle Nigel as a having a great zest for life...and those cool Aviators...wow!..so dapper! - Evelyn*

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**Rosa Lee** - November 27, 2022 at 12:25 PM

GE

*Beautiful*

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**Gail Eling** - November 27, 2022 at 09:44 PM

RK

“ *Our dearest Mr Eling ( uncle Nigel) we both had known you for over 50 year's, as our dear friend Lorna and Gail's dad but you were always kind and nice. It has been our honour and pleasure. Recalling each time we meet you and learned from you all that you shared, on food and travel conversations. BTW both of our favourite car of yours was that beautiful 70's white thunder bird we all admired often. You were one of the finest gentleman we knew and so sad to lose you. God bless . May you rest in peace, Love Rima and Ken Rana*

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**Rima And Ken** - November 26, 2022 at 01:59 PM

GE

*So sweet ☺*

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**Gail Eling** - November 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

EM

“ I first met Nigel about 50 years ago. Most of my memories revolve around food, chili chicken hot enough to peel paint, masala dosas, barbecue Chinese pigeon, and as many shrimps as either of us could eat, but I will never forget a motorcycle ride ( the only one in my life), a private airplane ride with my wife and dear friend Queenie Peterson, and most especially his being the gracious, warm and funny MC at my wedding In 1977. Nigel was the consummate gentleman, Williams no to do anything to help. I have truly missed him since we moved to Florida, and now will miss him even more. We salute you Captain, my captain. May you be at eternal peace.  
Edward & Giliane Meyer

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**edward meyer** - November 26, 2022 at 06:49 AM

RS

“ I've known Mr. Eling for a couple of years - both as a patient and as the father of one of my employees.

*Although I met him as a retiree, he always presented himself as a well-put-together, refined gentleman. He always had that pressed shirt and pants, and always spoke with the utmost of eloquence, style and compassion.*

*Put the man in a tuxedo, and I swear, you would have an older, Indian, James Bond. Very few people could exude the charm that Mr. Eling did. He could walk into a room, and have everyone swooning.*

*I will sorely miss our conversations and his regaling me with stories from his bush-piloting days.*

*I hope he'll now have an opportunity to ride his motorcycle and fly his plane, to his heart's content.*

*Happy travels, Captain.*

*Ram Srinivasan*

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**Ram Srinivasan** - November 25, 2022 at 06:00 PM

GE

*Love this!*

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**Gail Eling** - November 27, 2022 at 09:46 PM

BD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Beverley Davis** - November 25, 2022 at 02:40 PM

BD

“ *Nigel and I were on the same wonderful Team in Reservations in the late 60s early 70s - led by the incomparable Roger Slauenwhite! He was a wonderful, hard- working, kind and thoughtful Team mate! My deepest condolences to his dear family.*  
*Beverley (Roche) Davis*

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**Beverley Davis** - November 25, 2022 at 02:40 PM

GE

*Thank you!!*

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**Gail Eling** - November 27, 2022 at 09:47 PM

SH

“ *He was my favourite dance partner at every interline or Air Canada party. And a really good dancer.*  
*A kind, funny, warm, intelligent gentleman. He will be deeply dearly missed. RIP my dear friend.*



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**Sheila Hawks** - November 25, 2022 at 02:07 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joan Buell - November 25, 2022 at 01:52 PM

GE

*He loved and treasured your friendship ❤️*

Gail Eling - November 27, 2022 at 09:49 PM

JB

“ *My dear friend Nigel.....how I will miss you. All the calls and cards and endless laughs about my choice of food. Rest In Peace my friend I think there is a new motorcycle waiting for you at the end of your journey. Ride on.*

Joan Buell - November 25, 2022 at 01:50 PM

LP

*Sadly, I did not have the pleasure of meeting Nigel, but as a friend of his dear ex wife Coral, he sounded such a very nice man .. and I would like to send my deepest condolences to his family.*

Leonie Port. - November 25, 2022 at 10:50 PM

MT

*Gail, Christian, & Alex, and all relatives, we send you our condolences from Ireland. I never met Nigel, but Christian spoke very fondly of him. Rest in your heavenly home forever.*

*Marguerite, Tony, and family. Ireland.*

Marguerite O Toole - November 27, 2022 at 03:06 PM



*Thank you Leonie*

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**Gail Eling** - November 27, 2022 at 09:48 PM