K-State student commemorated with flight scholarship at K-State-Salina

MANHATTAN, KAN. — The family and friends of the late Geoffrey Jon Peggs, Wichita, Kan., have made a gift of $12,420 to the Kansas State University Foundation to establish the Geoffrey Jon Peggs Memorial Scholarship.

The purpose of this scholarship is to perpetuate the memory of Geoff Peggs and to provide financial assistance for flight fees to students properly enrolled in the flight curriculum in the College of Technology and Aviation at Kansas State University, Salina, Kan. Preference will be given to students whose resources are most limited.

Geoff Peggs was only 21 when he died as the result of a skydiving accident on June 15, 2001. While his intended career path included the areas of journalism, mass communications and computer technology, he had strong interests in aviation and skydiving. At Wichita’s Kapaun Mount Carmel, where Geoff Peggs attended high school, he served as design editor for the Kapaun Mount Carmel Crusader. As a college freshman, he was design editor for the K-State yearbook. Geoff Peggs also served as design editor for the Kansas State Collegian. He was awarded second place in the Associated Collegiate Press Design of 2000 and was a member of the Journalism in Education Association.

Geoff Peggs had more than 250 jumps and had achieved jumpmaster rating. He served as an officer for the university skydiving club and had been elected president of the KSU Parachute Club near the time of his death. Geoff Peggs held memberships in the United States Parachute Association and Wichita Air Capital Skydiving Club. He was also the webmaster for the KSU parachute club. He is survived by his parents, José Hurlstone-Peggs and Jack Peggs, both of Wichita.

“Geoff often said the cockpit would be his office one day,” José Hurlstone-Peggs said. “He died before he could realize that dream, but we know that he would want others to realize this dream.”

“To Geoff, flight represented a connection to something spiritual,” Jack Peggs said. “The vastness and beauty of the sky supplied Geoff with a unique meaning and purpose. It would never occur to Geoff that such marvels were anything to horde, and he could not be content unless he could introduce others to their wonder.”

“To excel in the challenges of becoming a professional pilot requires an almost passionate personal commitment as well as a significant financial obligation,” said Marlon Johnston, head of the aviation department. “Through this scholarship, the Peggs family is sharing their son’s example of passion for aviation as well as the financial support to meet those challenges. I’m honored to accept this support on behalf of our professional pilot students.”

The KSU Foundation coordinates fundraising efforts with alumni, friends, corporations and foundations to secure private support for Kansas State University.

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