

# **3500 Delta Retired Pilots Inequitably Harmed**

**For those not convinced that over 3500 Delta Retired Pilots suffered a financial harm during and since company re-organization, *this is for you!***

Below are selected signature comments, from our petition, that will verify the harm. But first, before you read them a quick review of some important facts:

- The Delta Pilot “earned” Defined Benefit retirement program was terminated and was the ONLY employee group’s pension so singled out.
- The PBGC picked up the pieces of this terminated plan and through draconian formulation now make monthly payouts of *pennies on the dollar* to the retired pilots.
- 3500 pilots and their families of the approximately 12,000 Delta retired pilots took the brunt of this hit. One half of the pilot retirement is a monthly annuity payout. Within this 3500 pilots, the percentage of current actual receipts from the PBGC (taking over this monthly payout) typically vary between 0% to 30% of what pilots are owed. Imagine your retirement receiving a cut like this.
- In addition the monthly medical insurance benefit between the ages of 60-65 was greatly reduced as the retiree must cover 51% of the inflated premium.
- Add it all up and the harm suffered by this group of Delta retired pilots is REAL, SUBSTANTIAL and a unique situation that SINGLED OUT A GROUP UNFAIRLY. After you read these comments below you will no doubt agree.

Here below are a few selected early signatures of the petition letter and a few hardship letters. As you read them keep in mind that all retired pilots under age 65, in addition to the radically reduced monthly annuity, had to pick up their own inflated monthly health insurance premium. ***Real Delta people, real harm, real hardship stories!*** Please note comment #2521 from the onset which highlights Delta’s own mission statement.

## **Do what’s right (quotes from Delta’s Corporate policy & Mission Statement)**

# 2,521

**00:17, Dec 24, Ms. Sheri Hendrix, WA**

Respectfully requesting Delta Air Lines follow their own policy with respect to this petition and appeal: **Delta Air Lines Our Vision, Ethical Principles and Actions Our Vision** - To be the world’s greatest airline. Our Ethical Principles 1. **Act with Integrity.** Pursue no business opportunity that would violate the law or Delta’s standards of conduct. This begins with our foremost commitment to safety and extends to all other legal and ethical responsibilities, as well. 2. Earn the Trust of Our Stakeholders. Deal honestly and in good faith with customers, suppliers, employees, shareowners and everyone else who may be affected by our actions. 3. Respect and Support Each Other. Respect the dignity of our fellow employees, recognizing that we gain strength from diversity and inclusiveness. 4. Be Loyal. Avoid and disclose any activities that might conflict with our responsibilities to Delta and our customers, and protect Delta’s assets. 5. Act in a Way We Can Be Proud Of. Only engage in business activities that you would be comfortable with if others knew about them. 6. Listen. Provide an environment where individuals can question a Delta practice in good faith without suffering any negative consequences. Our Actions 1. Know what’s right. 2. If you are ever unsure, ask. 3. Keep asking until you get an answer. 4. **Do what’s right!**

## **Receiving 1/10<sup>th</sup> of earned monthly annuity.**

# 17

**23:11, Dec 05, Mr. Captain Jake Boyd, WA**

Dear Mr. Anderson, I spent 31+ years giving my and my family's all to the service of Delta Air Lines with the legal agreement of an earned pension upon retirement. Now, PBGC dribbles out 1/10 of what my earned monthly pension

was. I am now approaching 71 years of age and have just shut down my small internet business which was failing due to the economy and now trying to find more work to supplement my income.

Please try to imagine how your family would suffer if you were, through no fault of your own, placed in the same situation. Please Mr. Anderson, meet with us and work out a plan to right this injustice to all the wronged retired Delta Air Lines Pilots. Please show us just how honorable you can be by your actions and deeds, not just words. Remember what Mr. C. E Woolman and Mr. Dave Garrett stood for and how they treated their employees and retirees. Those two fine gentlemen were honorable the likes of which is difficult to find in today's corporate world. Thank you for your time. I know we will chat later.

Jake Boyd Retired April 1, 1997 L1011 Captain Real Delta

#### **Getting less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of monthly annuity.**

# 27

**01:55, Dec 06, Charles Gilmore, UT**

We pilots worked hard on the front lines under all kinds of adverse conditions to make Delta the best airline we could. We missed holidays and birthdays with our families, and some even lost their families because of the nature our profession, yet after we retired Delta thanked us by taking our pensions away! What kind of family treats its members like that? After 27+ years of devoted service at Western and Delta, the PBGC gave me far less than 1/3 of what I was supposed to make when I retired, then reduced my check even further at the beginning of this year. We pilots deserve better than the low blow Delta gave us as a result of the bankruptcy. I support the letter and hope that Delta will some day treat us fairly.

#### **Active Captain says, "abrogation of moral and ethical responsibility"**

# 71

**05:24, Dec 06, Doug McDuff, GA**

I am fortunate enough to still be an active pilot at Delta, while many of my peers are hurting financially in retirement and feel betrayed by a company they once felt was very special. Termination of the Delta Pilots Pension Plan was a huge abrogation of moral and ethical responsibility on the part of both Delta and ALPA. The fact that it was done by leaders who are now gone does not alleviate the obligation of current leadership to uphold the ethical standards which are a core value at Delta and take steps to correct this situation as soon as possible.

#### **Sold the farm to get by!**

# 557

**08:06, Dec 07, Dr. Samuel Smith, TX**

I just sold the family farm to get by.

#### **\$46.24 per year! Instead of the \$6,200 owed.**

# 714

**12:28, Dec 07, Louis Belline, GA**

Mr. Anderson, When I retired at age 55 as a B-767ER International Captain in 2004, it broke my heart. For me being an international Delta captain was the dream job. However, my financial responsibility to my family overrode my desire to keep flying for Delta. Instead I accepted the \$6200/month pension plus my lump sum which I had earned already rather than continuing my career which I truly wanted to do. Now I get \$46.24 PER YEAR from the PBGC rather than the pension that was promised to me for 25 years by Delta Airlines. I am writing this from Seoul, South Korea where I am a simulator instructor trying to replace the income lost because Delta Airlines reneged on its' promise to me. What Delta and ALPA did may have been legal but it definitely was WRONG. I have always tried to live by the creed of "Do the right thing". Mr. Anderson, "do the right thing" and restore the monthly pensions that over 3,500 pilots have lost. Captain Louis Belline

#### **\$20.88 per month!**

# 730

**13:03, Dec 07, Mr. Victor Hooper, FL**

I retired early because I believed the union when I was told "there was a very good chance that if I did not retire, I would loss the pension I had worked 28 years for." I wanted to keep working but at the time had only three years to go and could not take the chance. So I retired and lost my pension anyway. The PBCG decided my earned pension to be zero. I had to find employment as did Captain Moser to survive. I worked in Korea for 5 years away from my

family. The PBGC after five years decided they had made a mistake and now I receive \$20.88 each month. This doesn't appear to be near to the 80-90% of my earned pension that Gerry Grinstein testified that I would receive. I may not be entitled to the entire pension, but certainly more than \$20.88 a month.

**\$0.00 per month!**

# 804

**17:41, Dec 07, John Fitzpatrick, IL**

Northwest pilots get 100% of their pension, yet original Delta pilots received about 50% of their pension. I am one of the retired Delta pilots who is getting zero from the PPGC. I received my lump sum and then cents on the dollar for the remaining annuity.

**\$381.61 per month of \$4,000.00 owed!**

# 886

**07:58, Dec 08, Mr. David Dressler, CA**

On retiring and after receiving my 'lump sum' half of my EARNED and supposedly SAVED retirement money (i.e. Pay that was set aside for MY Retirement), I was to receive approximately \$4000.00/mo in my retirement years. This happened for just two months after I retired. Then, when Delta declared bankruptcy, it stopped altogether and went to ZERO! After several appeals and PGC adjustments, I am now receiving \$381.61. There is no way that this can be seen as a fair and equitable compensation for what has been taken from me! \$381.61 for \$4000.00? Come on....???

**Works full time to supplement small PBGC payment!**

# 975

**12:35, Dec 08, Mr. David Conrad, GA**

Mr. Anderson: Robert Moser's story is very much like mine. Since retiring in 2004, I have been working full time to supplement the small payment I receive from the PBGC in order to educate my two sons and support my family. I am now 67 years old and have no hope of "retiring" in the foreseeable future. All we are asking is fairness.

**\$.84 .....that's right 84 cents!!!!**

# 1,060

**17:44, Dec 08, Ken Musser, GA**

I retired early after almost 33 loyal Delta years with 4 to go, because of a cancer I was diagnosed with that was the same kind that had killed my father after 5 years of his being diagnosed. The PBCG decided my earned pension to be zero. At age 56, I couldn't touch my IRA's without sever IRS penalties, so I had to find employment, as did Captain Moser to survive. I worked in South Korea for 4 1/2 years and Turkey for 1 1/2 years away from my family, friends and loved ones. I have exceeded my father's 5 years and now considered a cancer survivor. The PBGC after four years decided they had made a mistake and now I receive \$.84 a month, but only paid \$10.08 in March for the previous year. This doesn't appear to be the 80-90% of my earned pension that Jerry Grinstein former CEO and the person who recruited Mr. Anderson, testified that I would be receiving.

**\$900 per month!**

# 1,084

**20:05, Dec 08, Mr. Roger Lewis, TX**

30 years, retired as a 767-400 captain and now receive about \$900.00 a month while Delta pays the NW retired Pilots their Full Retirement.

**\$900 per month of \$6800 owed!**

# 1,108

**02:55, Dec 09, Mr. R Wayne Murphy, WA**

My wife, Alice Blake Murphy of 43 years, died in April 2006 before the final unfair sentence was imposed on us as a retired pilot family following my Early Retirement as an ATL 767ER Capt on 01Apr1997 at age 55.7 with a faithful and very happy 30.7 yrs service. I convinced Alice not to worry that Delta would not cast us aside when they emerged from bankruptcy so she lost her battle with ovarian cancer before that Fall '06 verdict was pronounced and I dropped from \$6800 to \$ 900 per month from the PBGC. She loved Delta and was just as proud of it as was I until that compassionate lie I had been telling her really came true. Shame on Delta! For just as unjust as that verdict, the salt in the wound of having the little NC boy next door who wanted to be like me that joined the Navy like me then

went with Northwest after retiring from the Navy receives 100% of his NW retirement paid by "my" Delta Family. Mr Anderson, I'll be okay, but many others are hurting deeply, so find a way to correct this terrible injustice if you want to leave behind your most honorable legacy at Delta Air Lines. V/R, CDR Roger Wayne Murphy, US Navy(Ret) Old Fort Vancouver, WA...the 1st Vancouver!

**\$0 in monthly benefits – lost home!**

# 1,330

**07:35, Dec 10, Mr. Donald Varvil, CO**

I have not been accepted by the PBGC and do not receive a check or any benefits from the PBGC. I was a loyal and hard-working employee for Delta Air Lines. We have already lost our home. Consideration should be given to the welfare of my wife, children, and grandchildren. Morally and ethically, the Delta pilot pension should be reinstated for retirees.

**Lost \$75,000 per year for life!**

# 1,442

**12:10, Dec 10, Mr. James Webster, FL**

I flew 36 years for Delta, and lost \$75,000 a year for the rest of my life after Delta filed for bankruptcy in 2006.

**..... wonder where the Spirit of Delta family went!**

# 1,456

**12:54, Dec 10, Mr. Walter Morgan, NC**

As I look at my piece of B767 ship 102 red gift ribbon, I wonder where the Spirit of Delta family went! That piece of ribbon cost me over \$5000 which I gladly gave because I believed in the fairness of the family and company culture. My faith was sadly misplaced because our company leadership failed the pilots that are the backbone of the company.

**Broken and devastated!**

# 1,495

**16:05, Dec 10, Mr. David W. Mason, TX**

I agree with Mr. Moser's points entirely. We are a broken, devastated people now with no hope for our families, making personal sacrifices we never thought we would have to make.

**.....never go wrong doing what is right!**

# 1,665

**20:01, Dec 11, NORBERT WEST, GA**

Dear Mr Anderson, DAL Sr. Management and members of the Board of Directors, You never go wrong doing what is right and the flying public will certainly take note. People fly Delta because of who they are and many companies have proven this can turn on a dime. I sincerely believe in your desire is to do the right thing and this will set the tone for many years to come proving to present employees and the public that the Spirit of Delta is still alive. Handled correctly, this could become one of the greatest stories for the world wide public to grasp since the beginning of flight and a reciprocity for the love and loyalty of employees for their company as well as the gift of "The Spirit of Delta". The public loves a company that loves its employees and no management team is an island unto itself. Look at this situation with a positive perception as I see you do with all your other management and public relation decisions. Don't let this golden opportunity slip through your fingers. Keep Delta, Delta!

**One of many that is forced to work to make ends meet!**

# 1,896

**20:37, Dec 13, Name not displayed, GA**

With the loss of my pension I have found it necessary to live and work 13000 miles from my family for the last seven years in order to provide for them. This has been a hardship that would have been precluded with the reinstatement of my earned pension benefits.

**No single thing harder on this family!**

# 1,897

**21:03, Dec 13, Alice Davis, GA**

The decision by Delta to terminate the pilot pensions has probably had more negative impact on our lives and our

relationship than anything that has ever happened to us over a 46 year period. Certainly retirement, or lack thereof, is not what we thought it would be.

**Doing right brings back that family feeling!**

# 1,950

**09:11, Dec 14, Mrs. Michelle Smith, GA**

Mr. Anderson, do the right thing and restore my husband's pension. The true Delta family can exist again only if you right this wrong.

**14% of my promised retirement annuity**

# 2,183

**11:12, Dec 17, Mr. Robert Riddell, GA**

Like so many others, after 31 plus years of total dedication to Delta Air Lines, Inc., I am receiving only 14% of my promised retirement annuity. I justified the action by our company in 2006 when Delta was fighting for survival and the survival of so many Delta jobs. Now Delta is doing quite well, thanks in no small part to the sacrifice of several thousand Delta pilots. Now Delta is doing quite well and it is time to repay the sacrifice made these pilots by total restoration of our retirement promised and the losses we suffered.

**Why was the Delta pilot pension singled out**

# 2,207

**13:12, Dec 17, Mr. Anthony Milanese, NC**

Dec. 17, 2012, , Last week American Airlines settled with their pilots for a pay increase and pension contribution into their 401K of 14% of pay. Today's Wall Street Journal reported a pension settlement with its merged United and Continental pilots. The Delta and Northwest Airline merger pilots are flying together with the Northwest pilots having a company pension and the Delta pilot's pension voided and their pension burden placed on the PBGC. Why should the general public taxpayer have to guarantee their pension when Delta Airlines can afford to buy an oil refinery and a large share of Virgin Atlantic Airlines. Why was the Delta pilot pension singled out as the only large US airline without a pilot pension? This wrong needs to be corrected. Anthony B. Milanese.

**... forced us out of our home and into very heavy debt!**

# 2,300

**16:51, Dec 18, Mr. Robert Berger, NH**

Dear Mr. Anderson I'm Bob Berger NH My family gave 32.5 years to the success of Delta, I retired at 60 on the 777. During those years I couldn't stop raving about the "family and how blessed we were being part of Delta". Great leaders - CE Woolman, Dave Garrett, Pre Ball and many others kept their word and held the trust of the Delta pilots. We would do anything for the company, and did. Going above and beyond, never scratching an airplane or having a violation, never hurting a passenger; was just what we did. We made conservative plans for retirement realizing that we had three children that wanted to attend college. When the family we loved broke our trust I took a flying job but stage four Cancer ended that after 7 months. Not being hire-able and with my wife's illness; and trying to pay the bills with Social Security and 1077 per month from PBGC forced us out of our home and into very heavy debt, which I have no way to repay. Please restore the trust that we had for so many years. Please consider if you gave so much and for your last years had so little to live on. Please restore part of what was promised.

**...pennies on the dollar of the retirement**

# 2,315

**19:37, Dec 18, Mr. Nathan Mason, GA**

When I was hired in 1977 every pilot I knew who was flying for any other airline said that I was going to work for "the best airline in the industry." After 26 years of dedication I was one of the 3500 retired pilots kicked to the curb with pennies on the dollar of the retirement for which I had worked so hard. Mr. Woolman must be spinning in his grave. It's not too late to make things right.

**...getting the \$900 a month of the \$5000**

# 2,338

**04:59, Dec 19, Mr. Rick Garcia, FL**

Mr. Richard Anderson, After 28 years of giving my best to Delta I was forced to leave my family in 2006 and go to Singapore airlines to continue to work. Now at 60 I can no longer work and yes I am getting the \$900 a month of the \$5000 I had worked for at Delta. I do not think that anyone would think that this is a right thing to do at Delta. And yes my son, who I had taught to fly, left his job as a Captain to go to work for IBM. You are losing really good young pilots because of actions like this. Please do the right thing and restore the money that we had earned. Rick Garcia

**Delta Pilot loses 85% of monthly annuity, and brother at NW gets full check.**

**# 2,415**

**15:48, Dec 20, Mr. KENNETH CHIRHART, IN**

Ironically, my brother and three first cousins all ended their careers as Captains at NWA/DAL. They all get their retirement checks from Delta. I retired at Delta with 33 years of service and lost 85% of my monthly retirement check. How's that for luck?

**...have to work for many years to make ends meet.**

**# 2,484**

**11:55, Dec 22, Mr. Thomas Parkinson, OH**

I had to leave the perfect career early, the career I dreamed of and worked very hard to achieve, because I knew that under our present bankruptcy laws I would lose almost everything if I had remained with the company. As we all found out, even after bankruptcy the company reduced our monthly payments, followed by the PBGC getting away with more theft of what was promised and owed. My retired life is certainly not what I had expected, and I will probably have to work for many years to make ends meet.

**# 2,488**

**...treated like a worn-out pair of shoes**

**12:45, Dec 22, Mr. Joseph Develis, FL**

I retired in 1998 after 40 plus years as a loyal Delta Airlines pilot. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect to be treated like a worn-out pair of shoes that had no further value to the company. You can not imagine the level of HURT your actions have placed on these now retired faithful members of the Delta family. I wish only the best for my airline and it's employees. I hold no malice in my heart because I still believe Delta will do the right thing. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all of my Delta family and GOD BLESS AMERICA.

**\$7,000/mo. promised now \$534/mo.**

**# 2,500**

**05:09, Dec 23, Mr. William Hart, NH**

Mr. Anderson 38 years of service - Pension cut from \$7000 per month to \$534 while You and your airline become the largest airline in the world. How do you sleep at night? My PBGC payment will not even pay our health insurance premium. Captain William Mike Hart

**\$6,000/mo. promised now \$720/mo.**

**# 2,519**

**21:23, Dec 23, Mr. Steve Smith, GA**

For 27 years I was one of THOSE Delta pilots. The ones who went down to the ramp to get strollers for parents of infants waiting in the jetway. The ones who went and found wheel chairs when none were to be found for our passengers who needed them. I tried to act as Mr. Woolman would have wanted me to if he were still in charge. And I loved it. I hated to retire early, but I was concerned for my wife's well being if we lost our retirement. Alas, my early departure was to be regretted as the company I loved and served all those years reduced my annuity from \$6000 per month to zero. The PBGC has restored it to \$720 per month. Now I work away from home like so many others and will need to do so as long as I can stay employed. Out of some ridiculous sense of loyalty, I choose to fly Delta when I can. It is on those flights that I get the coldest slap in the face. It comes when Mr Anderson speaks during the safety video about the honor of sitting at Mr Woolman's desk every day. I just wish for ONE day he would ACT like Mr. Woolman and make things right.

### **Struggling to make ends meet financially**

# 2,535

**08:33, Dec 24, R.Tracy Cheatham, CO**

With great sadness, I reluctantly retired in 2005 at the age of 53. I loved Delta Air Lines and I loved my job. I felt shoved out with promised pay cuts and retirement cuts that would leave me worse off by the time I reached age 60 than if I retired immediately. When I applied to work for Delta, I made no other applications because my research revealed the integrity with which Delta treated their employees. That was enough for me. It was Delta or nothing. I was thrilled to be hired. Fast forward to the current situation. With great emotional pain, I sacrificed the career I loved and made the decision for the best of my family. I trusted Delta to have the integrity to live up to its commitment to its retirees. Well, we have been abandoned by both Delta and ALPA and they blame each other. In a few months, Delta stopped my retirement income and then gave the funds to an organization (PBGC) that cares nothing about returning to me what I worked and saved for. Retirement age was raised to 60 almost doubling the years I could have worked until retirement which would have allowed me to recover from pay and retirement cuts. Then the stock market crash took half of my lump sum (Not Delta's fault but it still increases the pain – and the safety net was to have been Delta.) Delta paid me a paltry sum to try and satisfy the non qualified portion of my retirement for which I trusted them. In the past 7 years, I've made numerous applications to foreign airlines knowing that many older pilots have been successful here. I have been informed that I qualify very well except that I am not "current" and there seem to be enough "current" pilots to satisfy them. My current status? Struggling to make ends meet financially. HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND MUTUAL RESPECT – You have the ability to work toward restoring these as they apply to the retirees upon whose backs the current Delta Air Lines has been built. I would thank you for your leadership in this area. R. Tracy Cheatham

### **He receives ZERO**

# 2,552

**19:27, Dec 24, Sue Pate, GA**

My husband gave 27.5 years to DELTA AIR LINES. He receives ZERO, yes, ZERO of the monthly pension/PBGC he earned.

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT AIRLINE ?????**

# 2,761

**14:05, Jan 08, Mrs. Irene Dressler, CA**

Dear Sirs; It is with a great deal of regret that I feel it necessary to sign my name to this petition. I also flew for Delta for almost 40 years as a flt. attendant. Like my husband, I was proud to say that I worked for this great company. We were both responsible, professional, crew members and we gave our all to doing a good job for Delta. When I retired it was with sadness to be leaving a company who stood for respect, fairness and loyalty to its employees. Delta was always considered the company that stood for working as a family, It was not a TWA, Continental or one of the many companies that used their employees only to put a profit on the bottom line. It was the airline people thought of as the gold standard to strive for. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT AIRLINE ????? When my husband retired a few years later it was like going through a plane crash. He was mad, disgusted, let down and so disappointed that after so many years of being an outstanding pilot he was now retiring with far, far less then what he had earned working with Delta. I could not believe this was the same company I loved and was so honored to call my employer. I asked myself, how could any respectable company do this. He never crashed an airplane, he never showed up drunk, he took his responsibilities very seriously, he felt proud to say he was a Delta Captain. Now he has attempted to put it behind him, but in a world where companies no longer respect their employees it is hard to understand what our society is coming to. I would like to hope that Delta will do the right thing and give back to these men and women their rightful due, and restore my respect and love for this company. Delta Retired Flt. Attendant, Irene Chavez-Dressler

### **Allow our Economic Recovery to include retribution**

# 2,840

**21:15, Jan 18, Michael Gerard Mele, OR**

Right the Wrong, As a child of a WWII and Vietnam Veteran (my father served these United States for 27 years in the Army Air Corp and in the U.S. Air Force), I am disgusted with Delta Air Lines' treatment of Pilots and other employees who served admirably throughout their careers, only to be cut off at the knees by those they "trusted and served". Once my father's career in the Military concluded he was rewarded with a pension which would allow me and my family to live a comfortable "middle class" lifestyle. The U.S. Air Force kept up their end of the bargain

with my father, who kept national security and human lives safe throughout his tenure. Your Pilots and support employees kept me and countless other souls safe for decades, holding our lives in their hands; they served admirably and with the same Spirit of the Corp as my father. Do not scapegoat them in their time of need due to the Airline Industries' poor and immoral business practices. To allow the front line employees to take the hit for your ignorance and greed is reprehensible. I had been a Delta Air Line Frequent Flyer until years ago when I heard of how you were treating your Retired Pilots. Since then I have gone out of my way to avoid flying Delta or one of its Air Partners. Allow our Economic Recovery to include retribution to those whom you had abandoned. Your immoral decisions have done irreparable damage to your Pilots and their Families. Any financial retribution at this time will "never" be able to aid those who have passed under the veil of Delta's Dishonor...yet your direct effort to help Pilots and Families who can still be aided, is your Duty. By reinstating the honor of these men and women you take the first steps at healing your own disgrace in the face of one of the most challenging times in our Nation's history. Do the Right Thing and Right Your Wrong. Sincerely and Regretably, Michael Gerard Mele, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

**How can my beloved company allow this to happen**

# 2,855

**22:05, Jan 19, Mr. Wilbur L Whitesell, NV**

My lump sum was lost to my ex-wife and I depended on my monthly payments to live. My current check from the PBGC is just over \$1,000 a month and I now have to pay medical insurance for m wife and 14 year old son from that meager amount. I am forced to work as a consultant to try to survive. Last year I made an additional \$4,000 from this work. Could you live on this income? My savings are nearly depleted and I am ill. I worked for Delta for 34 years and was, I believe, a respected lead line check airman when I retired. How can my beloved company allow this to happen to us?

**Additional selected hardship letters due to termination.**

*From:* [aleineke@me.com](mailto:aleineke@me.com)

*Date:* 01/18/13 10:48:39

*Subject:* story

I was really hoping to remain retired but unfortunately lack of retirement funds have kept me in the workplace. My quality of life has diminished to the point where the lack of funds has caused hardships with my wife and family and has been instrumental in my subsequent filing for divorce. Without my present employment I would surely end up in bankruptcy. Without help from somewhere, I may end up there anyway. I am very embarrassed to make such an admission and would respectfully ask that this email remain as confidential as possible.

Thanks for your help.

Respectfully,

**Alan Leineke**

[aleineke@mac.com](mailto:aleineke@mac.com)

Direct: 801-819-7277

Cell 801-641-8401

Work 801-487-5413 x17

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*From:* [Don Henry](#)

*Date:* 1/18/2013 11:10:27 AM

*Subject:* Hardship Story

Mark,

I am more than glad to share the difficulties that my family has experienced since January, 2007 which actually began earlier by a year or so. After nearly 29 years of dedicated performance as a pilot and a successful 1997 retirement, my income, which my family solely depended, was reduced by 81%. I lost my home and virtually all of



my material possessions. My wife, who had not had outside employment for more than 28 years, at the age of 64 found work as a bank teller for a pay rate of about \$9 per hour. Our youngest son, who was in college, had to drop out of school in an effort to put his financial game plan together before he could continue his education. I personally have sold construction repair and remodeling jobs; sold Life Insurance; worked at a golf course for \$7.25 per hour and generally accepted any and all jobs in an effort to bring in some income. My wife who is 68 years of age, continues to work 40-45 hours per week. Our total income consists of two Social Security checks along with a greatly reduced DAL retirement insured by the PBGC. My wife's health has deteriorated and I anticipate that she may not be able to perform her duties as a bank teller much longer. Like many others, my IRA and retirement funds were greatly reduced due to the economic conditions. I have used virtually of my remaining "lump sum" to pay debts and attempts to save my home. We now live in a very modest residence with very few privileges. Financially, I am what may be considered "insolvent". Bankruptcy is more than likely in the future due to a judgement that I have recently received. I am totally unable to assist any of my family members. I virtually have no assets. We drive 6 and 12 year old cars and have very little in savings in an emergency fund. My entire focus for the remaining days of my life is to be able support my wife in an honorable fashion.

*Don Henry*

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**From:** [maurice cloutier](#)

**Date:** 1/18/2013 3:07:22 PM

**Subject:** PENSION TERMINATION

The pension termination was one of the **most disappointing and surprising events** of my life. If it appeared to be necessary for survival of the company I could accept it, but when the CEO gets a 20 million dollar bonus followed by a billion dollar code share with Japan Air Line, ---followed by a two billion dollar buyout of North West----and the company can afford to allow those employees get to keep their benefits,--followed by very generous donations to everything from Haiti to support of sporting clubs all over the country, followed by multi billion dollar profits this year alone-----Do I have to tell you that I am deeply disappointed with the fact that I had to terminate donations to my grand daughters' education fund, my newest car is a 1991 Subaru, and the older is a 1985 Honda, I must be very selective in how I help my sons through tough periods---(leaking roofs, unemployment periods, car repairs, etc.) If someone had ever told me that Delta Airline would ever do such a thing I would have laughed out loud!!! I considered this company to have the most integrity and to act more responsibly than any of the other airlines----with Lorenzo at the top of the list. ---So far, it appears that I may have been wrong. To arbitrarily steal and incur hardships to the very people who gave so many years to Delta, including representing the company at school events, fund raisings, ---flag waiving, company promoting P.A.'s ----with no apparent intention of ever correcting the injustice is just mind boggling.

Capt. Maurice Cloutier (retired 2001)

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**From:** [Barry Steiner](#)

**Date:** 1/18/2013 6:06:52 PM

**Subject:** Termination Hardship Stories

Dear Mark,

Thanks for all of your efforts. Here is my story:

I was a Line Check Captain and pilot for Delta Air Lines for nearly 29 years. I felt compelled to retire prematurely at the age of 58 on September 1, 2005 while faced with the airline's impending bankruptcy, but continued even then to support the company by training my replacements as a Post Retirement Line Check Pilot until January 1, 2006. When I was flying the line, I safely transported a million Delta passengers over 10 million accident-free miles

without ever so much as scratching an aircraft and always, without fail, answered the call of duty when called upon by Delta including commanding one of the very first passenger flights operated after the horrific events of September 11, 2001 when asked by Delta management. I worked days and nights, weekends and holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and graduations. I even volunteered on my days off to assist Delta Marketing on sales calls and worked at Delta sponsored golf tournaments as well other public events.

I took great pride in my respected position as a Delta Pilot and always conducted myself in accordance with the highest traditions of Delta Air Lines. In short, I more than lived up to my end of the implied agreement between Delta and myself for nearly 29 years only to be betrayed at the end of my career by the airline to which I had dedicated so much of my life.

During my last year of employment I sustained over a \$100,000.00 loss in pay due to the concessionary agreements made by ALPA initially in 2004 to stave off Delta's looming bankruptcy and later in 2005 to avoid pension termination. Not only did I lose this compensation but it acutely and negatively affected my final average earnings upon which my pension was to be calculated. As a result of this unfavorable calculation my life-long reduced, annual pension annuity was determined to be \$79,927.92. In 2007, the year after Delta irresponsibly and immorally divested itself of its pilot pension responsibility, the total annual annuity I received was \$2,235.90. Today, six years later, I am 66 years old and instead of enjoying the happy retirement I had worked so hard for during my 29 years with Delta, I am faced with the very real probability of having to move out of my home to try to survive on my meager Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. payments, savings and social security.

All in all I would say that this portends to be a very sad ending to what should have been a very happy and contented life due to the greed, avarice and immorality of the Delta executives and their minions responsible for shirking their fiduciary responsibility to pilots like me.

I hope this helps.

Regards,

Barry

LAX

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My wife, Alice Blake Murphy of 43 years, died in April 2006 before the final unfair sentence was imposed on us as a retired pilot family following my SpEarly Retirement as an ATL 767ER Capt on 01Apr1997 at age 55.7 with a faithful and very happy 30.7 yrs service. I convinced Alice not to worry that Delta would not cast us aside when they emerged from bankruptcy so she lost her battle with ovarian cancer before that Fall '06 verdict was pronounced and I dropped from \$6800 to \$900 per month from the PBGC. She loved Delta and was just as proud of it as was I until that compassionate lie I had been telling her really came true. Shame on Delta! For just as unjust as that verdict, the salt in the wound of having the little NC boy next door who wanted to be like me that joined the Navy like me then went with Northwest after retiring from the Navy receives 100% of his NW retirement paid by "my" Delta Family. Mr Anderson, I'll be okay, but many others are hurting deeply, so find a way to correct this terrible injustice if you want to leave behind your most honorable legacy at Delta Air Lines. V/R, CDR Roger Wayne Murphy, US Navy(Ret) Old Fort Vancouver, WA....the 1st Vancouver! **Mr. R Wayne Murphy, WA**

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*From:* [Kenmerger@aol.com](mailto:Kenmerger@aol.com)

*Date:* 01/19/13 12:09:29

*Subject:* Hardship

Dear Mark,

When I retired at age 60, I still had kids in high school. I had some money set aside, but had planned on the lump sum portion of my retirement to offset the shortfall, and also pay off my mortgage. Living on the annuity was going to be tight, but with some effort I figured that I could supplement things with some type of work.

Reality rocked my world when all of a sudden I was on the street with a grand total of \$59,000.00 and nothing from the PBGC for almost five months, since they had no record of me from Delta. I could not afford the \$1200.00 per month medical coverage, and as the bills piled up, the only available source of funds were the educational savings and personal accounts. That money dried up as we tried to maintain some standard of living. It was exacerbated by ALPA denying me a distribution of any claim money ( 30 of us suffered the same fate). So there I was, a former Captain for Delta Air Lines, begging, to no avail, for food stamps or any type of assistance from anyone. There was none.

I cannot convey in words how it feels for someone who served his country, and then served his company, faithfully in many capacities, to tell his family that they were damn near destitute! Watching the hopes and dreams of your children disintegrate before your eyes is something no parent wants to experience.

When I travel on Delta, (the only retirement benefit that I have), I marvel at the statement from the CEO, as to the honesty and integrity of the company. That has not been my experience.

Thanks for the opportunity to rant, Mark.

Ken Lankford Delta Air Lines Ret.

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Mark, just before termination, I went through a horribly crippling divorce financially. I pleaded with my attorney that the rumor was a Delta pension loss but it was to no avail. I lost my retirement home, 55% of my IRA, and went to work at a golf course for \$9.00/hr. Guess you can't be too proud when you have bills to pay. 29 yrs. As a "gung ho" Delta family man and feel "raped". No loyalty left for a company and threw us under the 777.--Ted Langworthy

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving in a well preserved body, but to skid in broadside, totally worn out and proclaim, "damn what a ride"!

Ted Langworthy

[flybear@peoplepc.com](mailto:flybear@peoplepc.com)

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**From:** [Stites, Tom](#)

**Date:** 1/19/2013 3:21:52 PM

**Subject:** you do a great job

Here is my hardship story...I flew for 27 years for Delta retiring off the B767-400 and flying FOR the company the last four months as a PRP. My wife, a Delta flight attendant for 33 years retired in 2003 so collectively we had 60 years of service to Delta Air Lines. My pension was going to help pay or pay totally for our daughter to go to college; but I have had to secure a home equity line of credit and will continue to draw on that until we can sell our home in Dallas. Maybe I am not very smart, but for the life of me I do not see why the Northwest pilots still get a pension and we don't. I was one of those who used to participate in pilot day, where we went around with a marketing rep in uniform on our days off strictly voluntary. I (and my wife both) contributed what was recommended to the B-767 we bought Delta. Feel free to use my name

Tom Stites

cell:214-957-4872

[tom.stites@cbdfw.com](mailto:tom.stites@cbdfw.com)

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Mark,

The following is a brief synopsis of the effects on my myself and my family due to the reduction in monthly income because of the "theft" of our pension:

2007...three children under the age of 18...reached age 60 (prior to FAA age extension to 65)...continued working part time for \$1000 per month and finishing up Masters degree in order to be able to return to the workplace in a different career...wife had become clinically depressed, severely affecting family of three children and marriage...loss of pension and uncertainty of losing home a key factor in her depression...paying out of pocket for medical/dental/vision coverage...the "DAL stock swap" value nowhere near what actual coverage for a family costs

2010...after three years of job search and "on & off" part time work, found a full time teaching position...listed home of 19 years for sale at "fire sale" price due to real estate market downturn which had begun in 2008...lost over 30% of lump sum in stock market and spent a good portion of the remaining balance of the lump sum over four years trying to hold onto our home of 19 years and pay for college costs for two of the three children.

2012...finally sold our "lifelong dream home...our "live for the rest of our lives home" that we had raised our children in and put our hearts into over the years at "fire sale" price...laid off in December from full time teaching position and now back to teaching part time...wife has expensive physical (non-depression) medical issues...now paying out of pocket for medical/dental coverage again

20??...will have to work until dead. Capt A. R.

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For 28 years I did all Delta asked, in and out of the cockpit. I coordinated the pilot month/pro-team program in Atlanta for five years, took part in many career days, civic group presentations, radio shows, print ads, served on the ad hoc committee in 1997 when our airline was in trouble, was facilitator in our initial CRM program, and was a check airman on the DC9 and the 777. I was proud and honored to represent Delta in those ways.

I cannot express the sense of betrayal I felt when Delta terminated my pension two weeks after retirement. My initial allotment from the PBGC was zero. After three revisions my monthly check is now \$360.

To learn Northwest pilots receive their full pensions was another slap in the face.

I, like all other pilots I know, wanted to help my airline through bankruptcy, but the share of the burden placed on the loyal retired pilots was grossly unfair.

James R. Jones  
Employee no. 554784

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**From:** [LLRodammer@aol.com](mailto:LLRodammer@aol.com)

**Date:** 1/21/2013 5:47:34 PM

**Subject:** \$78,000 LOST EVERY YEAR

01-21-2012

Since 02-13-1970, the first day I started working at Delta Airlines, I was always worried about keeping my job and especially keeping my retirement. During the next 35 years Delta always did me right. I never missed a trip or a pay check.

In the mid 1990's, I ask Tony Thelen, (ALPA R&D REP.), how the Delta Pilot Retirement Plan was doing. He replied, "Great! It's way over funded." In the late 90's, I ask Dave Greenberg, (Asst. V.P. Delta Flight Op's.), how can Delta afford all the "Green slips," (over time), especially when they are part of the Final Average Earnings. He

said, "It's much cheaper to pay half "Green slips" than pay extra captains!" Evidently I ask the wrong people; because a few years later, Delta declared BR and the DPRP was severely under funded.

Nobody told any of the pilots how "Qualified " and "Unqualified" are computed or that they could lose their "Unqualified Check" someday. They "Trusted" Delta who had never done them wrong for their entire career. It cost me my "Secure Retirement." \$78,000 every year! At bankruptcy, I was 62; too old to get any aviation job. Like most, I could have prepared if I had seen this coming. Most of us are still in shock wondering how we will survive retirement. There are no jobs for us old guys that pay enough to make a living.

Mr. Anderson please display the great leadership of Mr. Woolman and Mr. Garrett, who would have never done this "Injustice" to the Retired Delta Pilots. Please give the Retired Delta Pilots the "Unqualified Benefits" that they have earned.

Delta needs to make this "Right" if they ever want to return to the "Delta Family" that they once were.

Captain Larry Rodammer.

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**From:** [Ned Jones](#)

**Date:** 1/22/2013 2:54:17 PM

**Subject:** Termination Hardship

Mark,

I've not written to PCN before but have written to Mr. Anderson, with the awareness of PC3, to no avail. My story is not unlike many. As I've stated in the past, my father was a US Army officer and I was a US Air Force flight instructor. Upon finishing my military life and duties to my country I was ecstatic to have been selected to serve "my company", Delta Air Lines.

Delta was the company that any pilot ,at that time, wanted to work for. This was a result of the infamous "family" atmosphere...that management and the "worker bees" seemed truly close and had each others back at all times. I became a proud Delta pilot with a "company first" attitude serving as a long time flight instructor, APD, and line check pilot, finishing my career as a lead line check pilot on the B-777.

As has been written in much correspondence, throughout our careers we were continually assured by ALPA and company leaders that our retirement was extremely secure. We all looked toward our retired years as an enjoyable, stable time when we could look back and feel proud that we worked for such a great company ,with the comforting knowledge that we had made our contribution to continuing the legacy.

Obviously, all that we had been led to believe was not the case. The company that all of us felt was above the rest is now another fallen "hero" in our eyes. It is a disappointment with extreme consequences in that it directly effects all our lives and our family's lives. At bankruptcy my annuity, because of a heavy workload in my final years, was over \$100,000 per year. That immediately went to \$102 per month, then a few months later to zero where it has remained for the last seven years. At that

time I was only 60 years old but had been diagnosed with cancer and my FAA medical was invalid. Fighting the cancer and trying to find a non-flying job to counter this tremendous financial hit has proven extremely difficult. I have beaten the disease through high personal cost due to the medical benefit eliminations but my age now and lack of experience in any other field is prohibiting to say the least. It doesn't take a math major to figure out what I've lost over these last years. Life styles have had to be severely downgraded and thoughts of helping children and grandchildren in this volatile

economic environment have been eliminated .I've seen pilot friends with even deeper financial problems even resulting in suicide.

Steve Dickson in the January 19th, 2013 Flight Ops update talks about the solid profits Delta has had in the last three years and the billions of dollars Delta has repaid in dept. In light of these exceptional profits, would it not be appropriate to, at a minimum, reinstate the nonqualified benefit to

those remaining Delta Pilots, as has been continued for the former Northwest Pilots, now part of Delta. Mr.

Anderson talks of "getting to sit in Mr. Woolman's chair" every day in the boarding video and of the cohesiveness and commitment of the Delta people. Mr. Woolman would not have allowed this

travesty against part of his family to take place, nor would he want anyone to sit in his chair that didn't correct this wrong.

Sincerely,

Edmund (Ned) R. Jones

Lead Line Check Airman B-777, Retired

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**stole the very core of my dream**

**From:** [Jeff Frey](#)

**Date:** 01/23/13 00:03:26

**Subject:** The Delta Family

The feeling we all had as new hires joining the most coveted airline on this planet was beyond joyous.....it meant new beginning for our families with new adventures and a service to an ideal that was established years before by better than we followed....in contrast bankruptcy destroyed that which I held as an ideal but it also stole the very core of my dream as a kid which was flying "Delta's Big Jets"...financially I was left out to dry...zero sums per month from the bankruptcy date to November 1st 2011...the PBGC picked me up and I receive about \$500 per month...less than my initial new hire pay of \$650 per month....believe me at this point it's not about the money and the comfortable retirement I worked so hard for and didn't receive...it's the rejection of those I trusted to take care of their side of the equation...respectfully Jeffrey C Frey

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It is a fact that 3500 Delta retired pilots and their families took a huge and disproportionate financial hit during and since company re-organization.

*It is high time to **right this wrong!***

*Support this effort! The [3500 Blog](#)*

*Return to Petition:*

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/627/208/216/>