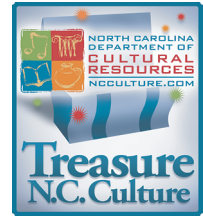




The museum that moves you!



“Piedmonsters” Will Take Flight at the N.C. Transportation Museum Feb. 21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The history of Winston-Salem based Piedmont Airlines will be highlighted, with former Piedmont Captain Bill Wilkerson and documentarian Richard Eller

SPENCER – The N.C. Transportation Museum will highlight the history of Winston-Salem based Piedmont Airlines Saturday, Feb. 21 with a special “Piedmonsters” day. Though the Winston-Salem based airline merged with US Air (now US Airways) in 1989, former employees and patrons of Piedmont Airlines have kept the history and memory of the company alive. The N.C. Transportation Museum’s *Piedmonster* flight simulator display and other aspects of Piedmont Airlines history will be a part of the program. It will also feature Piedmont Captain Bill Wilkerson as he shares memories of the airline and documentarian Richard Eller, who will provide a sneak peak of his film, “Speedbird: The History of Piedmont Airlines.”

Starting our “Piedmonsters” day, we will have a special presentation of the *Piedmonster* flight simulator from 10 a.m. to noon. The *Piedmonster* was developed in the 1960’s for use as a military and general aviation flight simulator. When the Piedmont Silver Eagles Charitable Fund acquired the simulator for the North Carolina Transportation Museum, they gave the *Piedmonster* its memorable name. The program hopefully will include operation of the *Piedmonster* pending available volunteers. Visitors will see and hear how the simulator helped train airline pilots.

At 1 p.m., former Piedmont Airlines Captain Bill Wilkerson will appear in the Bob Julian Roundhouse orientation room for a presentation on his time with the airline. Wilkerson was hired in the mid-1970’s, becoming Piedmont’s third minority pilot. He met his wife, Tisa, on the job when she was a flight attendant with the airline. After the US Airways merger, Wilkerson worked on safety programs and flew international routes until his recent retirement. Captain Wilkerson remembers fondly his time at Piedmont and will relate his experiences, both as a pilot and as an African American pioneer with the airline.

