

STATEMENT OF DANIEL BROOKS  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

RTB: This is Terry Bennett and I'm here with Daniel Brooks, and it's September the 19<sup>th</sup> at about 2:20 p.m. and we're going to be talking about the airplane accident that occurred on June the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Daniel, please state your name.

DB: Daniel A. Brooks.

RTB: How old are you Daniel?

DB: I'm 34 years old.

RTB: What's your date of birth?

DB: [REDACTED]

RTB: You just had one recently, huh?

DB: I sure did.

RTB: Good for you.

DB: Love to see it.

RTB: Ha. What's your address?

DB: [REDACTED] Rineyville, KY 40162.

RTB: I'm going to take you, Daniel, to the day of June the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, and ask you if you remember going to the airport there in Vine Grove, Kentucky.

DB: Yes.

RTB: Did you go with Josef Schroeder or did you go by yourself?

DB: I went by myself.

RTB: Who arrived there first?

DB: It was Joe.

RTB: OK. Had you taken any prior flights with Joe?

DB: Yes.

RTB: Do you know how many?

DB: No, but many.

RTB: OK. In this same plane?

DB: Yes.

RTB: So you're familiar with being in that plane before?

DB: Yes.

RTB: OK. When you got there, had Joe already done the pre-flight?

DB: Yes – inspection – yes.

RTB: Right. He had already inspected it?

DB: Yes.

RTB: And was the plane still in the hangar or was it out when you got there?

DB: It was out.

RTB: OK. So it was ready to go?

DB: Correct.

RTB: What was the weather like that day when you took off?

DB: We had storms that had just came through, and when I say just came through, I mean probably an hour and a half, maybe two hours before we took off that day.

RTB: OK.

DB: So it was dry by the time I got there.

RTB: Cloudy?

DB: Yes.

RTB: Where were you sitting in the plane?

DB: I was sitting in the front.

RTB: Who was flying the plane?

DB: It was Joe.

RTB: And Joe was in the back?

DB: Correct.

RTB: And what do you remember, if anything, about the flight itself?

DB: Um – I don't remember very many details in specific about it. I remember making a loop and flying from the airport off of Bewley Hollow Road going to where one of his friends had lived in that area, and flying overheard, and then going down to the Elizabethtown area, and then flying back from Elizabethtown back to Vine Grove. So it was a very short flight, just scenic type flight.

RTB: Did you notice any crosswinds or any turbulence up in the air that day?

DB: I don't remember any that stick out in my brain that day. Um of course it's very hard for me to remember that at this point. I don't really remember.

RTB: Do you remember hearing anything as far as the sound of the engine was concerned that was different?

DB: Uh nothing sticks out in my memory now, so I don't really remember anything that sticks out.

RTB: How about the maneuverability of the plane? Did it seem any different than what you had been up in it many times as far as how Joe was maneuvering the plane?

DB: I don't remember anything different.

RTB: Then coming from E-town, you were coming back to Vine Grove to land.

DB: Correct.

RTB: You were coming basically from the east to the west, would that be correct?

DB: That would be correct.

RTB: Do you remember whether the sun was in your all's eyes or whether it was cloudy or. . .?

DB: I don't remember any sun in my eyes ever. I was wearing sunglasses that day. Um and I don't remember anything that was blinding or anything like that. It was a cloudy day and the rain had left so there was a lot of clouds in the sky that day, so I just don't remember any kind of sun affecting my vision or anything like that.

RTB: Do you remember the descent into the landing?

DB: Uh usual descent with the nose kind of up a little bit at an angle, the way that you should land a plane like that. Um I just remember nothing out of the ordinary and pretty much landing just like we always had.

RTB: Then what do you remember just before the crash?

DB: The only thing that sticks out in my head that day was when we were coming down, the cockpit in that plane sets up high in front of me – so when you're coming in at that angle, all I can see up in the bubble as it is, is the sky. Until we got down to a certain point and I saw what looked like to me was vegetation, and I kind of lifted my head up as high as I could get it, and I saw a tree in front of us. And Joe is retired colonel, and I always called him by his rank, and that tree was very, very close. I can't judge distance at this point. It's just too vague in my memory, but I do remember seeing that tree and I remember getting very startled by it, and I shouted, "Colonel, there's a tree right here!" And I don't know how long it was until we hit it. It was very, very soon. I would say, if I had to judge, in my memory, it might have been a split second, and then we hit the tree. And then went through it.

RTB: And you got no response from Joe when you said, "Colonel, there's a tree".

DB: I think it was probably too soon.

RTB: OK.

DB: But there was no response that I can remember in my head at this point. I don't remember anything about that. But that doesn't mean to say that there wasn't. Who knows. I just don't recall anything.

RTB: Is there anything else that you remember Daniel that you want to put on the record?

DB: I just remember crashing, and it was very, very vague after that. Details, all of those things, are very, very hard for me to distinctly remember at this point. That is basically all I really have to say that I can definitely say to be factual.

RTB: Thank you Daniel.

DB: Thank you.

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RTB: Thank you Daniel.

DB: Thank you.

I swear and affirm that the statements given in the foregoing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
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DANIEL BROOKS

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
COUNTY OF HARDIN

SUBSCRIBED, SWORN TO AND ACKNOWLEDGED before me this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of  
September, 2019, by DANIEL BROOKS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMM. EXPIRES: 2-23-21

NOTARY ID NO.  \_\_\_\_\_