



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Heidi Moats
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Subject: ERA14LA363
Who: Dr. Nicholas Webster – NTSB Medical Officer

In an email, Dr. Webster stated the following:

According to FAA medical certification records, the 65-years- old airline transport pilot was first medically certified in 1965. On his most recent certification examination dated May 8, 2014, he weighed 225 pounds, was 69 inches tall and reported he had accrued 30,000 flight hours. The pilot reported a DUI over 30 years ago with no recurrences. On examination, the FAA Aviation medical Examiner (AME) noted a benign heart murmur that reportedly had not changed in many years. The AME issued the pilot a First Class medical certificate with the following limitation: Must wear lenses for distant - possess glasses for near vision.

According to the Jacksonville Florida Medical Examiner autopsy report, the cause of death was blunt impact trauma and the manner was accident. In addition, the heart was enlarged, and demonstrated hypertensive heart disease. It weighed 475 grams and was described as having a floppy and soft consistency. The left ventricle and the interventricular septum measured 15 and 17 mm, respectively. For comparison, the average weight of a heart of a man his weight is 395 grams with a range from 299-521 grams and the average left ventricle and the interventricular septum are 12.3 mm (SD 1.6 mm) and 13.6 mm (SD 2 mm) respectively. ^[i] In addition, mild coronary artery disease with about 30% stenosis was seen in multiple arteries. There was no evidence of acute myocardial infarct or coronary thrombosis. Microscopic examination of the left ventricular septum identified patchy mild myocardial fibrosis with no sign of myocarditis. Finally, cirrhosis of the liver was also identified.

^[i] Kitzman DW, Scholz DG, Hagen PT, Ilstrup DM, Edwards WD. Age-related changes in normal human hearts during the first 10 decades of life. Part II (Maturity): A quantitative anatomic study of 765 specimens from subjects 20 to 99 years old. Mayo Clinic Proc., 1988. 63(2): p. 137-46.