

To whom it concerns,

After many years of flying with my friend in this airplane, this was the first long flight that he took me on, to meet my grandchildren for the first time in Foley, Alabama. My height and long legs were never an issue on local flights but on this long flight I developed a cramp in my left leg that began to cause me great discomfort. I didn't bother my friend about it, especially when it worsened at the end because I'm not supposed to talk in the airport area. After landing and as we approached the end of our rollout, I unbuckled my safety harness (which he told me never to do) and stretched out my leg to relieve the cramp. With my leg outstretched, I didn't realize that the ball of my foot was pressing on the rudder peddle. I saw the airplane going to the left and didn't realize that I was causing it and was still working the cramp. We went off the left side of the runway and then bounced quite a bit in the grass before coming to a stop. It wasn't until we got the airplane into a hangar that I looked inside to get my things, saw the peddles and realized what I'd done, remembering that he'd always told me never to press those peddles unless he told me it was OK. He was pretty upset at the time so I didn't tell him right then, but I had to fess up so I told him what I'd done the next morning. I am very sorry to have caused this because I know how much he loved and cared for that airplane.

Sincerely yours,



Craig Schindler