

Lynn Spencer
Air Safety Investigator
Aviation Safety - Eastern Region (AS-ERA)

Date: December 14, 2022
Subject: ERA23FA087 Interview with Witness
Contact: William Schuler III

The following is a record of a conversation with Mr. William "Tripp" Schuler III, who lives at [REDACTED], next door to the accident location. Mr. Schuler was interviewed in person at 0920 CST on December 14, 2022. He provided a telephone number of [REDACTED] and an e-mail address of [REDACTED]

Mr. Schuler stated that he works less than one mile from the accident site . . . "just down the road." He heard the sound of breaking tree branches and thought that maybe a tree was falling and looked up to see the airplane clipping the trees. He used a model airplane I handed him to show that the airplane was flying level "with the tail pointing upward toward the sky" as it went through the treetops. There was no engine noise. He heard the impact and got into his car and immediately called his neighbor, Mr. Price, and they met at the wreckage. Mr. Schuler called 9-1-1 to report the crash while Mr. Price attended to the pilot, who was conscious.

The digest was e-mailed to him for review on December 15, 2022. He replied on December 18, 2022, at 1605 EST with comments that were incorporated into the narrative. The corrected digest was e-mailed to him on December 19, 2022.

This digest was amended on February 21, 2025 to correct a typographical error from its original publication, which incorrectly stated that the interview of Mr. Schuler occurred on December 4, 2022 rather than December 14, 2022.