

December 1, 2020
Ronald C. Gifford
Next of Kin (NOK) / Nephew to the pilot

In a telephone interview with the NOK, he stated that he lived on the east coast and communicated with the pilot via texts and telephone calls. He stated that the pilot was in good spirits and spiritually was in a good place. He stated the pilot was headstrong and he didn't know how many friends he had. He stated that the pilot's wife [the NOK's Aunt], had died about three years prior and that would have been a time when the pilot would have been in a depressed condition.

He said that the pilot was active, worked around his house, and taken a turn for the better health-wise. He thought that the pilot had purchased the airplane about 2 or 3 years prior. He thought that the pilot received his pilot's certificate in the '90's. He stated that while at the pilot's house, he noticed several documents and logbooks. He offered to secure them the next time he travelled to the pilot's house, and it would be after the holidays. He stated that the pilot lived alone.

When queried about the pilot possibly deliberately flying into the Ocean, the NOK stated that it would be a surprise to him and his family. He stated that none of the family members had any discussion with the pilot regarding him harming himself. When asked about when the pilot was diagnosed with a terminal illness, the NOK stated that he was not sure, and did not know of a terminal illness. He stated that he had not had a discussion with the pilot regarding an illness.

The IIC presented the NOK with a summary of the facts from the Sheriff's deputy's report and the witness report, to explain why the investigation was seeking this information. He repeated that the information comes as a surprise to him.