

Tony Schultz dies, known as mercy pilot

By KRISTAN KELLY

Staff Writer

Longtime Bush pilot Ransom Tony Schultz died Thursday at Denali Center after a long battle with cancer.

Schultz, who began flying in Alaska in 1938, was known to other pilots as a "mercy pilot." He was a man who risked his life often to save others, said longtime friend and pilot Randy Acord.

"If the weather was bad, some pilots would turn the trips down. With Schultz, any emergency that seemed real difficult, he would always volunteer and he would always make it," Acord said.

"Where the airport was small, the weather was bad, and the load was heavy . . . he would always do it," he said. ". . . It's good to see him go from natural causes. It means he had some talent."

Don Hulshizer, another longtime Alaskan pilot, described Schultz as a charming man who would help anyone. He laughed when recalling that Schultz, who had married a woman 40 years younger than him, was the oldest member of their pilot club, and consequently was



TONY SCHULTZ

the only one who had to find a baby-sitter during club meetings.

Schultz was born Nov. 23, 1909 in Bristol, S.D., the son of Tony and Mary Schultz. After finishing high school in Epping, S.D., he came north to Valdez in April 1938 on the

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