SHEFFRES, Ezra H.

Ezra H. Sheffres, 64; pilot killed in crash in heavy fog on Cape Cod

WELLFLEET, Mass. — The funeral for Ezra H. Sheffres, 64, of 86 Nauhaught Bluffs, will be held tomorrow in Providence. He was killed Thursday when the single-engine Piper Cherokee plane he was flying crashed in heavy fog into the outer section of Wychmere Harbor in Harwich, Mass., police said. He was the husband of Evelyn (Buckler) Sheffres.

Mr. Sheffres was an electrical engineer for more than 30 years, retiring 4 years ago. He had been a director at Raytheon. He had been a vice president at Picture Tel in Massachusetts and was a vice president of Data Point in San Antonio, Texas.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Rose (Horvitz) Sheffres, he had lived in Wellfleet for the past four years, and previously lived in California, Texas, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

He was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, and earned a master's degree at Northeastern University in Boston.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

After retiring, he was a chairman of the Wellfleet Conservation Commission. Mr. Sheffres was an avid sportsman and private airplane pilot.

Besides his wife he leaves two sons, Robert A. Sheffres of Temecula, Calif., and Carl S. Sheffres of Lexington, Mass.; a sister, Adele Richman of West Palm Beach, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

The funeral will be held tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be private.

SHEFFRES, Ezra H.

January 18, 1996. Beloved husband of Evelyn (Buckler) Sheffres. Residence: 86 Nauhaught Bluffs; Wellfleet, MA. Dear father of Robert A. Sheffres, Temecula, CA and Carl S. Sheffres, Lexington, MA. Dear brother of Adele Richman, W. Palm Beach, FL. Devoted grandfather of Sam and Michelle. Funeral service 1:30PM Sunday at MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 825 Hope at 4th Sts. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. Memorial observance at residence of Elaine Buckler and her late husband, Martin, 181 Duxbury Ct., Warwick, 3-7PM, Sunday and at 86 Nauhaught Bluffs, Wellfleet, 2-4; 7-9PM, Monday through Wednesday.

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FATAL-CRASH PLANE NOT YET RECOVERED

BARNSTABLE -- Strong winds and rough seas yesterday prevented local, state and federal investigators from retrieving a single-engine plane that crashed in poor conditions in a Harwich Port harbor on Thursday. An autopsy showed that the pilot, 64-year-old*Ezra*Sheffres*of Wellfleet, died of drowning and blunt trauma to the head. The Piper Cherokee will be examined after it is pulled from the water, said Stephen Muench, executive director of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission.

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BOSTON GLOBE

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SOURCE: By Isaac Rosen, Globe Correspondent

CAPE PLANE CRASH LEAVES PILOT DEAD

HARWICH PORT -- A single-engine airplane crashed into shallow water just outside Wychmere Harbor yesterday afternoon, killing the pilot.

The Piper Cherokee plane piloted by*Ezra*Sheffres,*64, of Wellfleet, was spotted at about 4:15 p.m. by a commercial fisherman returning to the harbor. Rescue workers and divers from four Cape towns found the plane right-side up but submerged in about 4 feet of water 150 feet offshore, with only the tail showing.

''It must have been some impact,'' said Tom Leach, the Saquatucket harbor master. ''The windshield was completely knocked away.''

Leach, who reached the plane by boat, said he saw Sheffres' body still strapped in a seat.

The plane had taken off from Chatham Airport at about 2 p.m. in good conditions, said Lonnie Pickett, the airport manager. It crashed about 4 1/2 miles away.

Sheffres was ''an experienced pilot,'' Pickett said, adding that Sheffres

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flew once every week or two and ''was always a gentleman and a damn good pilot.''

Pickett said he did not receive any calls of distress from the plane. The cause of the crash is under investigation, officials said. ''Anything's a possibility at this point,'' said Richard Bunker, an inspector with the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission.

At the time the plane was located, thick fog had rolled into the harbor. Conditions were so poor that the plane was not scheduled to be salvaged until today.

An autopsy is also scheduled today to determine cause of death.

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KEYWORDS: HARWICH PORT AIRPLANE ACCIDENT DEATH NAME-SHEFFRES
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