

Last Flights

Delta's last scheduled 747 flight, on April 23, was flown by Captain Beverly Dickerson, Delta's number one pilot in years of flying time, with 36 years of company flying experience. It was also Captain Dickerson's last flight. After more than 36 years as a Delta pilot and as a senior flight officer, he will retire. Dickerson flew Delta's first 747 operation on October 25, 1970, from Atlanta to Los Angeles.

Delta has sold its 747 fleet which, several years ago, numbered five of the huge 370-passenger airplanes.

Delta's last 747, ship #105, was received from Boeing on November 12, 1971, and will be delivered by Delta back to Boeing. Delta has consistently praised 747's as being among the finest airplanes ever produced. They were retired from Delta as a part of our fleet standardization program. Boeing 747's are designed with major emphasis on international and long-haul operations, and 747's proved less compatible to Delta's routes than our L-1011's.

In Delta's service since November 12, 1971, and through April 23, 1977, 747 ship #105, flew an estimated 15,220 hours. It made 13,548 takeoffs and landings. The aircraft operated from Atlanta to many of Delta's major cities including Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago, Detroit and New York. It caused something of a sensation when it first appeared in London and Frankfurt, on the Delta-Pan American Interchange several years ago, the first Delta 747 ever seen in Europe.

ADIEU TO THE "747"

Farewell, you beautiful "Queen of the Skies"

Whose mighty wings have soared many miles

We loved your performance—You served us well

Remembering your greatness—with pride we will swell

You lifted us in your strong arms with ease

Transporting us safely to our destinies

A gentle touch and you responded to each motion

Obedient the commands with trusting devotion

Your graceful body seemed to master the skies

In quiet domination of all by your side

Mighty "747"—may your service be acclaimed

In awareness and awe of the feats you attained

And so with fond memories and much appreciation

We bid you farewell—safe future destinations.

—by Mrs. Norman Topshe

(Captain Norman Topshe, retired, is a former Delta 747 captain)



Delta's last 747 flight, April 23, between Las Vegas and Atlanta, via Dallas/Fort Worth, was flown by retiring Captain Beverly Dickerson who flew Delta's first scheduled 747, October 25, 1970.



After completing his last flight and Delta's last 747 flight, Captain Beverly Dickerson (center), lines up with the crew for a photo session in the Atlanta terminal where a crowd of well-wishers had gathered for the occasion. In the cockpit with Captain Dickerson on the 747's last scheduled trip were R. H. Rice (left) and E. L. Chambliss (right). The cabin crew consisted entirely of in-flight service personnel who had flown previously as Passenger Service Supervisors aboard 747 equipment. Marlene Curtiss flew as the last PSS. From left, Carolyn Cote, Marlene Boddie, Pat Vincent, (hidden behind Ms. Boddie), Sherri Haley Marlene Curtiss, Jackie Greer, Charlotte Parriott, Sonya Keith, Faith Moore, Judy Butterfield, Joan Berryman, Betty Warren, Sue Buxbaum and Sonja Salo. Not pictured were Barbara Reed, Karen Hargate and Patti Corbett who also worked the last 747 flight.