



Proudly Serving Louisiana,
Western Tennessee and the Mississippi Valley

Pilots for Patients News

A quarterly publication of Pilots for Patients Spring/Summer 2012

A Flight to Remember

I departed in the Baron just prior to the hazy sun breaking the horizon at KBTR (Baton Rouge). The short flight to Natchez was IFR in heavy mist and scud, but uneventful. The patient and her husband were there right on time. Checking weather for the flight to Houston one more time still indicated our arrival in 90 minutes would beat the storms that were to the west of Katy, Texas.

We departed and at the halfway point near Lake Charles the weather began to change. The rainbows in the photo over Calcasieu Lake that day were not a sign of good things to come. Looking at the weather on the 496 it appeared the storms were approaching KEFD (Ellington) much sooner than predicted, though we still had what appeared to be a short window for arrival.

Contacting the first Houston controller near Beaumont, he also believed our arrival would be okay. By the time we approached the eastern edge of Galveston Bay, however, the storms were just to the west of KHOU (Hobby). We began our descent down to 3000' thru thick, bumpy, dark clouds, with gusty winds. Then down to 2000' on vectors to the ILS 35L. Lightning showed on the 496 right on top of Hobby now, and the ceiling at Ellington dropped to minimums. I asked the patient and her husband to tighten their seat belts as the plane was really jumping around. They were dead silent. At the outer marker I had to turn up the instrument lights it was so dark with the rain just pouring now. At 210' above the runway I finally saw the ILS strobes, and we safely landed with right at one-mile visibility.

The lineman was there with an umbrella and a golf cart. He took the patient and her husband to the FBO. I walked over with my umbrella. When I entered, the patient, who had tears in her eyes, along with her husband asked almost simultaneously, "Why on earth do you do this?" I had no idea what to say. I just smiled and acted like this was just a normal day.

Her question was a good one though, and made me think. My flights with the patients have really been some of the finest times in my life. Like most of us I assume, I spent the majority of my life working very hard. While my wife (who worked much harder than I ever did raising our daughters) and I have had some success, I just never really gave back much. It seemed I was always just too busy, and traveling extensively in my 34 year oilfield career, to commit to a cause.

Pilots for Patients has given me the opportunity to use whatever talent the good Lord gave me with regards to flying, to finally give some small amount back. It would be easy to say that the patients get a lot out of the transportation we provide, and perhaps this is true. I have to be honest though. Seeing the patients, and with many becoming friends, hearing their stories and learning of their struggles and fights against so many illnesses, the outstanding courage and fortitude they display, has taught me so very much about just how blessed my life has been. If you believe flying an ILS in the rain and wind is tough at times, try having an illness in your family that is potentially life or death. I have said this before:

"I have received far more from the flights than the patients ever have."

If you are a new pilot with us, please try to fly as often as possible. If you know of a pilot who might want to utilize their skills in helping others, please put them in contact with Pilots for Patients. I can assure you that they will receive far more in return than they would have ever anticipated. My hope is that we can continue to expand our organization to benefit those in need. God Bless, and keep your wings level.

Phil Coyne . . . Board Member and Volunteer Pilot for Pilots for Patients

Home to Monroe



Pilot Arthur Cole and patient Wiley Sapp headed for Monroe

The mission of **Pilots for Patients** is to provide free air transportation to those patients needing diagnosis and treatments at medical facilities not available to them locally. Our goal is to eliminate the burden of travel allowing the patient to concentrate on getting well.

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Pilot Clay Dean and patient Ann Vasocu



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Milestone Mission

We have had several milestone missions in the last 8 months. Our 1100th mission was flown October 29, 2011, the 1200th mission was flown on January 30th of this year, and the 1300th mission was flown on April 21st. (see page 6 for details). Based on the increase in mission requests and the good weather we have been experiencing in our service area, we are on target to fly our 1500th mission in late August or early September! What a blessing to serve and transport so many patients to their much needed diagnosis or treatment. Thank you to all the pilots who have flown missions, or helped in some other way, to make Pilots for Patients such a wonderful organization.

PRESENTATIONS EVENTS RECOGNITION

Thank you to the Junior League of Monroe for awarding Pilots for Patients your 2012 Endowment Fund Grant. We appreciate you and all that you do to support our community. Photo: (left) Founder and Director Sharon P. Thomas, (right) Founder and President Philip Thomas



While attending the 2012 Air Care Alliance Conference in New Orleans in April, our own Philip Thomas was honored to receive the Friends of Aviation Award presented by Brad Brandt, LADOTD, and Senator Mike Walsworth. Pictured: left Brad Brandt, center Sharon Thomas, right Philip Thomas.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Pilot Bo Hunter from La Marque, TX, a member of Pilots for Patients since July of 2008, flew his 50th flight on June 13, 2012.

Pilot Don Imhoff from Baton Rouge, LA, a member of Pilots for Patients since May of 2010, flew his 100th flight also on June 13, 2012.

Bo will be presented with his 50 mission leather jacket and Don with his 100 mission diamond pin. Watch the website for photos.

What's red and chrome and smells like oysters? See page 7

Online Donations
can be made
on our website at:

www.pilotsforpatients.org

PayPal or Credit Card

Thank You
for supporting
Pilots for Patients !!!

TOP 12 IN 2012

Name	Total
Philip Thomas	35
Donald W Imhoff	31
Michael Clay	26
Florence Bethard	17
Wayne Petrus	15
Andy Barham	14
Bob Bailey	13
Bo Hunter	12
Clay Dean	10
Christopher Trahan	9
James Johnson	9
Larry Lehmann	9

October 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012

Pilot Mission Count – 1/14/2008 – 4/30/2012

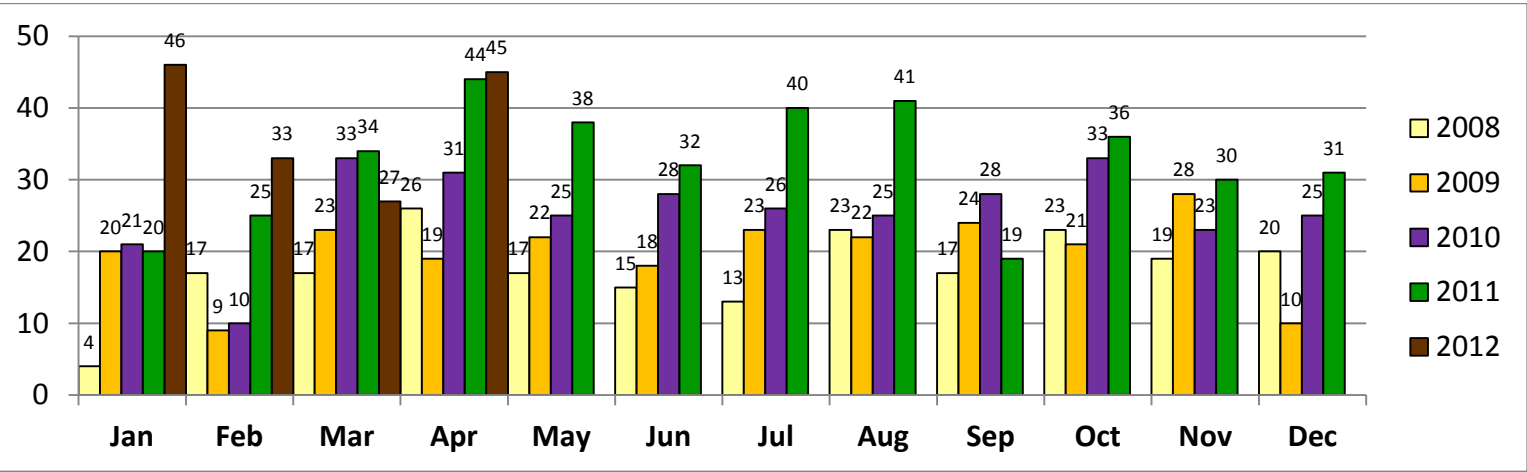
First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total
Ralph	Abraham	15	Allen	Ford	1	Joe	Neathamer	7
Edward	Angel	2	Robert	Gafford	1	Robert	Nelson	1
Warner	Angelle	8	Jim	Gardner	1	Keith	Odom	69
Bob	Bailey	13	John	Gaumnitz	2	Daniel	Oppenheim	3
Everett	Baird	5	Bruce	Goodbee	1	Dennis	Pennington	1
Jack	Baker	2	Donald	Goodman	1	Peter	Perez	2
Andy	Barham	122	Craig	Gregory	1	Wayne	Petrus	76
Edwards	Barham	14	Michael	Gusko	2	Pilot	PFP	10
Jason	Barrette	1	Abraham	Hakim	2	Scott	Phelps	5
Robert	Bash	3	Michael	Hall	1	David	Powell	2
Florence	Bethard	26	Michael	Harris	10	Stephen	Roberts	1
Mike	Blakeney	17	Jack	Hayhurst	2	Mark	Robertson	4
Ryan	Blakeney	2	Pilot	HGA	14	William	Runyon	29
Kurt	Blankenship	2	Wade	Hosea	14	John	Rutledge	8
Warren	Brown	5	Ben	Hulsey	1	Phillip	Schaitel	2
Clifford	Brown	3	Bo	Hunter	49	Terrell	Sharplin	1
Bill	Buck	2	Donald	Imhoff	106	Riaz	Siddiqi	13
Charles	Chase	18	John	Jacobi	2	Travis	Smith	6
Darryl	Christen	1	James	Johnson	11	Steve	Smith	3
Michael	Clay	32	Bradley	Jones	15	Scot	Stanley	4
Richard	Cloud	18	Marty	King	12	Aaron	Styron	1
Arthur	Cole	6	Dale	Lambert	5	Philip	Thomas	166
Ed	Collins	5	Daniel	LaRocque	2	Christopher	Trahan	25
Philip	Coyne	56	Larry	Lehmann	38	Monte	Warne	1
Chuck	Crochet	1	Mark	Lobell	1	Robert	Watters	1
Quincy	Dalton	7	William	McGehee	8	Doug	White	27
Thomas	Dansby	3	Glenn	McGovern	4	Clyde	White	13
Dennis	Daray	5	Dolphus	McKenzie	38	Guy	Williams	20
Clay	Dean	7	William	McMahan	1	Richard	Worthington	10
Carlton	Dufrechou	2	Morris	Mintz	10			
Robert	Eisenstadt	2	Brooks	Monypeny	4	Total		1276

Ground Missions

First	Last	Total
Jan	Rugg	17
Donald	Imhoff	11
Nancy	Worthington	8
HM	Butler	7
Philip	Thomas	3
Lori	Dunn	2
Mike	Hartt	2
Thomas	Dansby	2
Bo	Hunter	1
Larry	Lehmann	1
Morris	Mintz	1
Teri	Sims	1
Tracy	Hilburn	1
Wade	Hosea	1
Wayne	Petrus	1

January 15, 2008 – April 30, 2012

2008 – 2012 Pilots for Patients Missions



Patients



Houston Ground Angel Mickey Meehan, patient Charles Huffman and wife Gloria Huffman and pilot Andy Barham's son Micah.



Frank McGee, Ella Garrett, patient Eddie Garrett and Patricia McGee.



Patients
Ryan Chappell and
Shelley Thomas



Patients
Stephanie Bond Temple
and Katherine Herron



Patient
Martha Arrington
and husband Bill



Patient Dustyn Ates and his
mother Shannon McKenzie



Patient David Senez, his father
David Senez, Sr. and patient
Madeleine Wixom

It is such a blessing to see the smiling faces of our patients who are facing medical challenges in their lives. Their hope and positive attitude are an inspiration to us here at Pilots for Patients and we are grateful for the opportunity to help them through their journey.

Events



PFP secretary Larry Lehmann speaking about tax related laws, opportunities and challenges of charitable flying



Hope Anderson speaking about her Miss Louisiana personal platform “Pilots for Patients” at the ACA conference



Ready to tee off at the Woodstock Golf Tournament



On the green at Black Bear Golf Club Delhi, LA



John Mulhern
Lori Dunn and
H.M. Butler



Miss Louisiana Hope Anderson with the Pilots for Patients display at the tournament



Philip Thomas, Hope Anderson, Alan Gallagher, Lori Dunn and H.M. Butler

Pilots for Patients hosted the ACA (Air Care Alliance) National Conference in New Orleans. PFP was also the recipient of a portion of the proceeds from the 4th annual Woodstock Golf Tournament. Our thanks again to the Jeffrey Wooden Memorial Foundation.

Mission Milestones

Mission	Date	Pilot(s)	Patient
First	January 14, 2008	Wayne Petrus/Bradley Jones	Linda Fox
100th	July 15, 2008	Wayne Petrus	Alan Smith
200th	December 13, 2008	Clyde White	Johnny Woodard
300th	May 22, 2009	Philip Thomas	Mallorie Byford
400th	November 11, 2009	Mike Blakeney	Larry Kolb
500th	March 4, 2010	Philip Coyne	Christian Billingsley
600th	June 24, 2010	Andy Barham	Dana Strickland
700th	October 20, 2010	Michael Clay	Dealva Auttonberry
800th	February 9, 2011	Ed Angel	Evangeline Henagan
900th	May 9, 2011	Bill McGehee	Gabrielle Butler
1000th	July 25, 2011	Philip Thomas	Lanece Laseter
1100th	October 29, 2011	Philip Coyne	Stephanie Bond Temple
1200th	January 30, 2012	Don Imhoff	Barbara Haftmann
1300th	April 21, 2012	David Powell	Charles Huffman

Can't Fly ????

We realize there are many reasons why a pilot isn't flying at this time.
There are many other ways to help Pilots for Patients:

- + Host a fly-in at your home base airport or a fundraiser in your area
- + Man a booth at an aviation event on behalf of Pilots for Patients
- + Make a monetary donation and encourage others to do so
- + Ask your employer about matching funds for volunteer hours and contributions
- + Honor loved ones with a memorial or honorarium gift
- + Offer to fly with a new pilot to acquaint him/her with Pilots for Patients
- + Distribute brochures and posters to local Airports/FBOs/Flying Clubs
- + Spread the word about the 3 P's - Pilots, Patients, Patrons

Did You Know?

You can do more than just view the available mission list.

- + Update your pilot info
- + Change your password
- + View your mission records
- + Read what's going on with Pilots for Patients
- + Make an online donation
- + See our YTD mission stats
- + Link to our Facebook page
- + Request a mission online

Dr. Ralph Abraham is available to give any PFP pilot that has flown 1 mission per year his/her medical exam free of charge. Contact the PFP office to learn more.

Just a Reminder

- + Once you have accepted a mission, please refer to the Mission Checklist on the back of your ID badge and contact the office if you have any questions
- + Make sure we have up to date copies of your insurance coverage on file at the office. Please fax to the office at 318 388 4924.
- + Please fax or email the Hobbs time and miles as soon after you complete a mission as possible
- + Please take pictures (if the patient is comfortable with this) and send to the PFP office.

Coordinator's Corner

Calling all pilots...I need your help! Requests are increasing and more folks need our help. I realize some of you cannot fly for one reason or another but you can still help and make a difference. Bottom line we need more pilots.

Do you remember when you first signed up to be a PFP pilot? You were so excited to use your time and talents to help other people and really make a difference. I am asking you to share the great mission of Pilots for Patients with your fellow pilots at your airport and flying clubs.

The majority of our flights involve Monroe and Houston but we can use pilots anywhere in Louisiana and in the Houston area. An average mission is around 300 - 350 miles so pilots from throughout the state can take just about any mission posted. More pilots will help spread the blessings around and give several of our frequent flyers some much needed rest. We currently have 89 pilots on our active pilot roster (76 who have flown at least 1 mission). I would love to increase that roster to 100 mission ready pilots or even more. *Beth Stone*

Birthdays

MAY

Philip Coyne
Jack Hayhurst
Aaron Styron
Michael Clay
Scot Stanley
Quincy Dalton
Robert Watters
Gregory Engel
Mark Robertson
Philip Schaitel

JUNE

Robert Bash
Kurt Blankenship
Jim Gardner
Dale Lambert
Stanly Heckrodt
Larry Lehmann
Wayne Petrus
Sharon Thomas *

JULY

Everett Baird
John Luffey
Edwards Barham
Florence Bethard
David Taylor
Peter Perez
Beth Stone*

AUGUST

Richard Worthington
William Runyon
Don Hansen
Ronald Crawford
Morris Mintz
Angela Doles*

SEPTEMBER

Jason Barrette
Dennis Pennington
Ralph Abraham
David Cusimano
John Rutledge
Wade Hosea

* Non Pilots

ACA National Conference

Pilots for Patients hosted the ACA (Air Care Alliance) National Conference in New Orleans in April. Representatives of VPOs (volunteer pilot organizations) around the country from New York to California attended to speak and discuss matters, issues, and opportunities to help others both individually and as a national organization.

ACA speakers included President Lindy Kirkland, Chairman Rol Murrow, V.P. Jim Weaver, Treasurer and attorney Jeff Kahn and various group leaders from around the country. Speakers arranged by Pilots for Patients President Philip Thomas included Miss Louisiana, Hope Anderson, Louisiana Senator Mike Walsworth, Louisiana DOTD Aviation director Brad Brandt and PFP director Larry Lehmann.

The weather was perfect for the cocktail and oyster fest reception Friday evening. The hit of the night were the charbroiled oysters cooked on the back of the Dragos converted fire truck at the Ernst Café.

This conference was a great opportunity to share and exchange ideas on how to better our organization. Thank you to all who attended and were involved in this event.



Dashka Lehmann
Corlis Coyne
Sharon Thomas

Drago's Oyster Grilling
Firetruck

Senator Mike Walsworth
Larry Lehmann
Philip Thomas

A Word from our Patients

Today is my 2nd birthday. 2 years post stem cell transplant. God is awesome to me. Thank you for all you've done to help me get to this point. Love ya! **Geraldine Brewer**

Again, thank you so much for all you do. In a time when going to the hospital is stressful enough, this service is such a BLESSING in many ways. **Shelley Thomas**

I just wanted to say thanks again for taking care of us last week. The flights, as well as Wayne & Florence, were great. Both of the Ground Angels were there when we needed them, and my dad got another good report – still no sign of the cancer, so he won't have to go back for another checkup for 6 months (YEA!!!). Words could never express our gratitude to you and Pilots for Patients for what you guys have meant to our family over the past couple of years. You have truly been a God-send for us, but a great big THANK YOU to everyone involved. You've definitely made a difference in our lives. **James Adcock's son William.**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those patients who lost their battles this year. Their courage and spirit have been an inspiration to our staff, pilots, donors, and volunteers.



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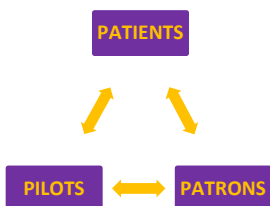
Office: 318 322 5112
Fax: 318 388 4924

If you or your organization would like to host a fly-in, fundraiser or other event please contact the Pilots for Patients office.

Phone: 318 322 5112 or email: pfp@pilotsforpatients.org

Thank you to our sponsors and friends

Community Cancer Fund, Dyersburg, TN
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE TODAY