

## New Orleans bound



Pilot Florence Bethard,  
patient mom Lily and  
patient Alexis Patrick

Do you think that Pilots for Patients is just another organization? Well, I think it is much more than just another organization. It is a whole lot of people who think helping others in need is the right thing to do. Our pilots, patients, and patrons are the best. All of us have within us a soul and most people's soul tell us that living for one's self is not enough. Reaching out to others makes for a more fulfilling life. As we journey through life we have learned that helping others is one of the most satisfying endeavors we can do. The way we help others varies greatly depending on the individual, as each of us has our own abilities and talents.

The urge to fly an airplane started for me as a child as I watched with enthusiasm the small planes flying overhead in rural Ohio. The occasional drive to the local airport to watch the take-offs and landings spurred the desire within me to pursue becoming a pilot. That desire lingered within me until I had completed my college and graduate studies and moved to Baton Rouge. Once established as a chemist, I finally was able to pursue the desired pilot license at the now defunct, small Baton Rouge Downtown Airport. My active piloting was enhanced several years later when I became a part-owner in a small plane. Flying throughout this beautiful USA was now possible and served as a transportation means. Although I knew all along that I wanted to use my flying to help others, work schedules and raising a family seemed to leave little time.

Then retirement time arrived and I found the time to do what I could do to help others. Pilots for Patients had been founded a couple of years earlier and was off to a great start. Making the first contact, getting approved as a volunteer pilot, and making the first mission flight got me hooked. Yes, indeed, it soon became clear that the PFP organization was composed of sincere individuals whose hearts were fully enveloped in the true reason for the organization, helping others. Patients that I met made me sometimes wonder who was helping who. Sure the transportation to and from the medical facilities is a blessing to the patients, but the love and gratitude shown to me by the patients has been a true blessing in my life.

Pilots are known to look for any excuse to fly, like making a short hop to a nearby airport just to have a coke or a hamburger. Thus, it is not unusual to hear "I flew to Fun Airport this weekend for a great \$100 hamburger." But, flying patients beats the satisfaction of a good hamburger many times over. So, I'm glad that PFP was there when I decided to take my love for flying and use it to help others.

Having a wife who understands my desire to fly and who also likes to help others is a real benefit. As I have recently joined the Pilots for Patients organization as a director, it is quite clear that the focus is always to be looking out for the patient. As we continue to grow and move closer to that 2000th mission, let us never forget that nothing is more important than helping others. Thanks PFP for providing me the mechanism to use my flying abilities to help others.

*Don Imhoff ... volunteer pilot, board member*



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.

## What's Inside

Stories.....	2
Mission Stats .....	3
Patients/Pilots .....	4
Awards, etc.....	5
Info & Reminders .....	6
Pilot Spotlight .....	7
Sponsors/Friends.....	8



Carol Ann Strozier with  
patient Amy Avant



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Online Donations can be made on our website at:

[www.pilotsforpatients.org](http://www.pilotsforpatients.org)

PayPal or Credit Card.

Thank You  
for supporting  
Pilots for Patients !!!

**HOME SWEET HOME**

It's hard to believe we are in the closing days of 2013 and PFP has provided another great year of service to our friends and neighbors across the state of Louisiana, parts of Arkansas, and Western Tennessee. PFP has accomplished many goals including our new hangar office/home for pilots and patients flying in and out of the Monroe area.

Many goals have been met with the help of our pilots and donors. We hope to accomplish even more in the coming year. I personally want to thank all the pilots, volunteers, donors and staff that have given of their time and efforts to make all of this achievable.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Philip M. Thomas, President  
Volunteer Pilot



**Golf Tournament check presentation**

A donation from The Jeffrey Wooden Memorial Foundation was recently made at the Pilots for Patients hangar. Pictured below are (left to right) PFP President Philip Thomas, Wooden Foundation board member Niki



Wooden Stracener, PFP Director Sharon Thomas and Wooden Foundation board member John Mulhern. The Jeffrey Wooden Memorial Foundation has been a strong supporter and friend of Pilots for Patients for the last five years, truly helping PFP make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you so very much.

**Weather**

Weather is always a concern of pilots, especially this time of year. It is constantly changing and can present challenges to even the most experienced pilot. As a Pilots for Patients PIC, the safety of you and your patient is always your #1 priority. When planning your flight, be sure to check the weather at point A, point B and all along the complete route. Know your comfort zone and personal limitations. Patients are always told to have a back up plan so cancel the mission if you have any doubt about the flight.

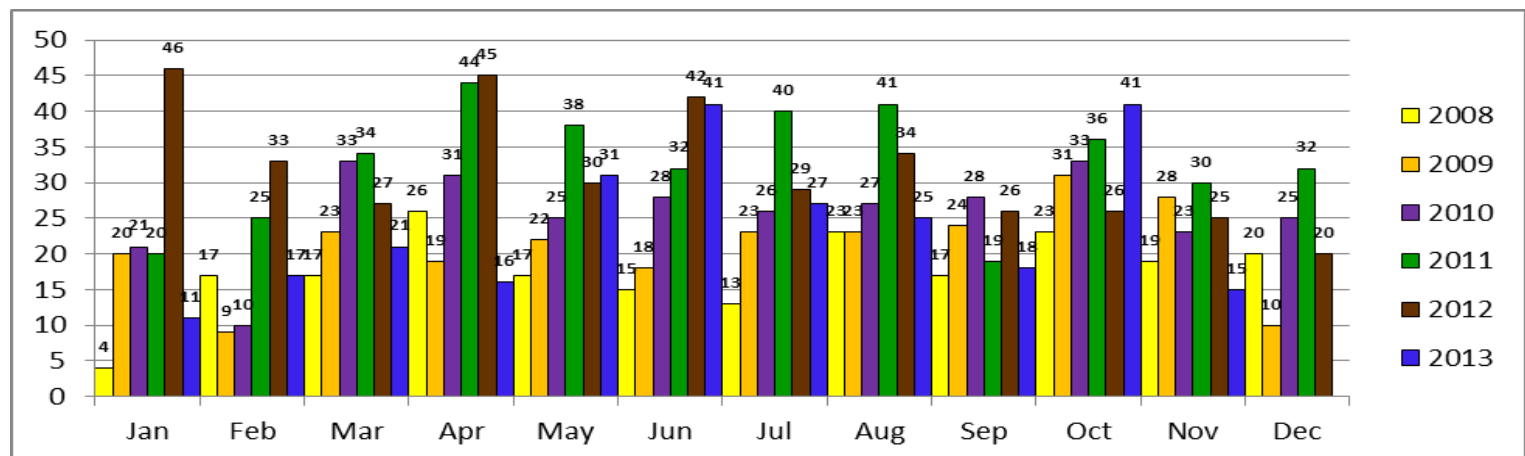
**From your Coordinator**

I want to thank everyone who has made 2013 a great year for Pilots for Patients. Thank you to the patients who let us help them along their journey, the pilots who flew or who spread the word about us to others, the donors and sponsors who helped financially, and to our board and volunteers who all contributed in their own way. You truly are a blessing to those you help. I look forward to our organization helping even more people in 2014. I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Pilot Mission Count – 1/14/2008 – 11/30/2013

First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total
Ralph	Abraham	17	Robert	Gafford	1	Brooks	Monypeny	4
Edward	Angel	2	Jim	Gardner	1	Wally	Mulhearn	1
Warner	Angelle	13	John	Gaumnitz	2	Joe	Neathamer	7
Bob	Bailey	13	Ronald	Girlinghouse	1	Robert	Nelson	1
Everett	Baird	5	Bruce	Goodbee	1	Keith	Odom	69
Jack	Baker	2	Donald	Goodman	1	Daniel	Oppenheim	3
Erle	Barham	1	Craig	Gregory	1	Dennis	Pennington	1
Edwards	Barham	27	Michael	Gusko	2	Peter	Perez	2
Andy	Barham	153	David	Gutierrez	2	Wayne	Petrus	89
Jason	Barrette	1	Abraham	Hakim	2	Pilot	PFP	12
Robert	Bash	4	Michael	Hall	1	Scott	Phelps	5
Florence	Bethard	56	Michael	Harris	11	David	Powell	4
Ryan	Blakeney	2	Jack	Hayhurst	3	Stephen	Roberts	2
Mike	Blakeney	20	Pilot	HGA	14	Mark	Robertson	14
Kurt	Blankenship	4	Heidi	Higginbotham	1	William	Runyon	29
Clifford	Brown	3	Wade	Hosea	18	John	Rutledge	9
Warren	Brown	5	Ben	Hulsey	1	Phillip	Schaitel	2
Bill	Buck	2	Bo	Hunter	77	Terrell	Sharplin	1
Charles	Chase	34	Donald	Imhoff	178	Riaz	Siddiqi	16
Darryl	Christen	1	Danny	Jackson	1	Steve	Smith	3
Michael	Clay	42	John	Jacobi	3	Travis	Smith	6
Jason	Clements	1	James	Johnson	22	Scot	Stanley	4
Richard	Cloud	18	Bradley	Jones	15	Aaron	Styron	4
Arthur	Cole	11	Marty	King	18	J Smith	Thomas	4
Ed	Collins	5	Dale	Lambert	5	Philip	Thomas	223
Philip	Coyne	69	Daniel	LaRocque	4	Christopher	Trahan	37
Ronald	Crawford	1	Larry	Lehmann	52	Alair	Tudor	5
Chuck	Crochet	1	Mark	Lobell	1	Monte	Warne	1
Quincy	Dalton	7	Hugh	McFarland	5	Robert	Watters	1
Thomas	Dansby	3	William	McGehee	14	Clyde	White	15
Dennis	Daray	5	Glenn	McGovern	4	Doug	White	27
Clay	Dean	65	Dolphus	McKenzie	46	Guy	Williams	35
Carlton	Dufrechou	2	William	McMahan	1	Richard	Worthington	10
Robert	Eisenstadt	2	Tara	Milby	1			
Allen	Ford	4	Morris	Mintz	10			

## Pilots for Patients Missions 1/14/2008 – 11/30/2013





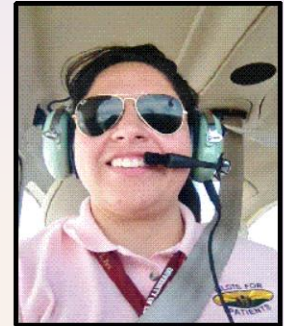
## Events and Presentations



Recruiter of the Year Clay Dean  
Volunteer of the Year Stacey Graves



Our 1800<sup>th</sup> Mission !!!  
Pilot Clay Dean  
Patient Marie Pleasant



Our newest pilot Heidi  
Higginbotham on her first mission



Pilot Larry Lehmann  
50<sup>th</sup> mission jacket



Pilot James Johnson  
20<sup>th</sup> mission jacket



Pilot Mike Blakeney  
20<sup>th</sup> mission jacket



Pilot Florence Bethard  
50<sup>th</sup> mission jacket



Jeffrey Wooden Foundation  
family members & Philip Thomas



Paul Coburn, Carol Strozier,  
Patient Amy Avant  
Pilot Wayne Petrus



Director Sharon Thomas and  
donors Barbara & Bill Palmer

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we all gathered in Monroe for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Luncheon for an afternoon of awards, music, food, fun and fellowship. Pilots for Patients is the outstanding organization that it is because of the love and support of everyone involved. The patients, pilots, board members, donors, staff and volunteers work together to make a difference in the lives of others.

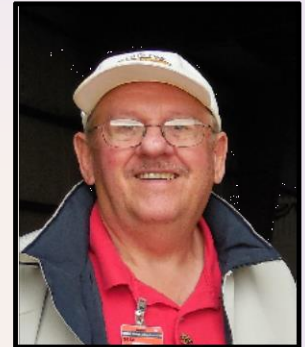
**PILOT OF THE YEAR TOP 10 FOR 2013**



Clay Dean  
Cleveland, TX



**2013 Pilot of the Year**  
Philip Thomas  
Monroe, LA



Don Imhoff  
Baton Rouge, LA



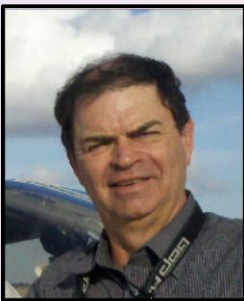
Florence Bethard  
Coushatta, LA



Andy Barham  
Oak Ridge, LA



Bo Hunter  
La Marque, TX



Guy Williams  
New Orleans



Larry Lehmann  
New Orleans



Wayne Petrus  
Monroe, LA



Mark Robertson  
Alvin, TX

The satisfaction of knowing we helped someone else is reward enough. We are blessed to have patients who put their trust in us to help them along their challenging journey. Everyone does what they can to keep the patient as our #1 priority using their time, flying talents, coordination skills, financial support, and so much more. We look forward to helping even more patients in 2014.

## Mission Milestones

First	January 14, 2008	Wayne Petrus/Bradley Jones	Linda Fox
500th	March 4, 2010	Philip Coyne	Christian Billingsley
1000th	July 25, 2011	Philip Thomas	Lanece Laseter
1500th	October 25, 2012	Mark Robertson	Joseph McKenzie
1600th	April 9, 2013	Clay Dean	Stephanie Bond Temple
1700th	July 25, 2013	Don Imhoff	Richard Woodruff
1800th	November 12, 2013	Clay Dean	Marie Pleasant

Please visit the website for details on these and other missions

## Can't Fly ???

We realize there are many reasons why a pilot isn't flying at this time but there are many other ways to help.

- ✦ Spread the word about the 3 P's - Pilots, Patients, Patrons
- ✦ Host a fly-in at your home base airport or a fundraiser in your area OR distribute brochures and posters to Airports, FBOs, or Flying Clubs in your area. WE NEED MORE PILOTS !!!!
- ✦ 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 help him get acquainted with PFP.

## Follow Us




Pilots4patients OR  
Pilots for Patients




Pilots for Patients  
[www.pilotsforpatients.org](http://www.pilotsforpatients.org)

Dr. Ralph Abraham in Mangham, LA 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.

### ***You can do so much more on the website than just look at the available missions!***

You can 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, read the current newsletter, view milestone mission pictures and information, download forms, and request a mission online. Visit often as there are some exciting additions and changes coming soon.

## 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 at 318 322 5112 if you have any questions.
- ✦ Make sure we have up to date copies of your insurance coverage and medical certificate on file at the office, even if you aren't flying right now. Please fax them to 318 388 4924.
- ✦ Please fax or email the Hobbs time and miles as soon after you complete a mission as possible so we can complete them in our records.
- ✦ Please take pictures (if the patient is comfortable with this) and send to the PFP office.
- ✦ If you wish to fly a mission involving Houston, please request it as early as possible to allow time for the ground angel coordinator to find a driver. Remember, even if the available list shows EFD Ellington or another airport, we can usually change it to any Houston area airport that our partners, the Houston Ground Angels, support. Call the office if you need to change the airport on a mission you would like to fly.

**PATIENTS - please contact the mission coordinator at 318-322-5112 to schedule your flight requests. Please DO NOT contact the pilots directly. All requests must go through the mission coordinator. Please call or fax your mission requests as soon as you have the dates for your next appointment.**



## The Ladies of PFP

Pilots for Patients is honored to have 2 very accomplished female pilots on our roster, Ms. Heidi Higginbotham and Florence Bethard (pictured here with patient Marie Pleasant).



Pilots for Patients is blessed to have Heidi Higginbotham as one of our Women Pilots! Her passion for flying began at the age of 14 when she began to save her money to later obtain her pilot's license. After graduating as Valedictorian of her Church Point High School Class of 2011, Heidi chose to attend The University of Louisiana at Monroe majoring in Aviation. After settling into her new home in Monroe, Heidi began flight training at JPS Aviation.

Her first goal was reached on July 15, 2012 when she obtained her private pilot's license, followed by receiving her instrument rating on November 6th.

This young lady spent the summer of 2012 and 2013 teaching young students at Louisiana Aviation Career Education camps all over the state who share the same passion she did as a youth. She participated in the 2013 Annual Women of Aviation Worldwide's Fly it Forward program in March by taking a woman flying who had never flown in a small aircraft. Heidi joined the ULM Flight Team her freshman year and is currently the team's Captain in her junior year. She placed 2<sup>nd</sup> Top Female Pilot for this region at the SAFECON event this year.

Heidi became a part of the Pilots for Patients family in August 2012 as an intern. She has since attended many events promoting PFP as our Special Events Coordinator, flown co-pilot on many missions and recently reached the 250 hour requirement to become an official volunteer pilot and flew her first mission this past November!

Florence grew up in Baton Rouge and married into a family from Coushatta. She has 4 grown children, 34, 33 and twins 31. She plays piano at her local Methodist Church, does stained glass and loves to fly!!! In 2008 one of her twin boys got his pilot license. One of his first flights was to take her on a flight over Shreveport and she loved every minute! His twin got his license 6 months later and, in her words, "This was too wonderful, I have to do it too." She enrolled in the NSU flight program and got her license in August of 2009.

She applied at a volunteer pilot organization but didn't have her IFR rating so she was not eligible to join them. Shortly after that, she flew her son Ben to the Pineville airport to take his written test, and saw a flyer for Pilots for Patients. She filled out the application while he was taking his test -- too excited at the possibility that she could actually do this!

Florence joined Pilots for Patients in January of 2011. Her first flight was with her IFR flight instructor taking patient Stephanie Bond Temple to Houston and it was wonderful all the way around. She was hooked - she could fly whenever she wanted, meet people that are such special friends AND do something good. She has a wonderful husband, Jim, who simply says "go fly - this is what we should be doing with our airplanes and our time!" They both pray for these special people.

She says "My twin sons are pilots (one has flown with me on a mission), my son-in-law became a pilot, and my husband is taking lessons!" In working with Pilots for Patients, we have found a whole new population of fine people and what a beautiful viewpoint of the world! Florence has flown 54 missions since joining.

We are very proud of both of these ladies and all the pilots on our roster. Our pilots are compassionate, dedicated and devoted to making a difference in the lives of so many people here in Louisiana and beyond. Thank you for all you do for Pilots for Patients.



3127 Mercedes Drive  
Monroe, La 71201

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](mailto:pfp@pilotsforpatients.org)

### Thank you to our sponsors and friends

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PATIENTS



PILOTS

PATRONS



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE TODAY**