

## Houston bound

A few Sundays ago, I got to fly with Phil Coyne from Monroe down to Houston and back. We took a couple down for the husband to have treatment at MD Anderson the next day. My role on this trip was to help with the patient and with Phil in any way. Neither of the two passengers we took down had flown much in a private airplane and you could tell there was some small degree of anxiety. But Phil took us down without a bump and we all arrived at Ellington and met the Ground Angel.

I thought about the many times I have gone to Houston since being diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia in 2006, both in a car and flying down for my treatment or just a doctor visit. The 6 plus hour drive had become rather boring and sometimes tough. And I am very lucky in that I felt pretty good most of the times I went down. I promise you, it is much easier on the body and mind to fly down.

Coming back with just Phil and me, he asked if I wanted to fly and he only had to ask once. The clouds had built up some and we got to dodge them, flying left and right of our course some to avoid the clouds. But then also trying to put the edge of the wing into a cloud every now and then to enjoy the bump it may provide. And I thought how lucky I am to be able to participate in this activity. I don't know how many times I have looked up into the sky at a plane flying over or at group of clouds and thought how much fun it would be to be up there flying around them. And here I am doing just that and helping people at the same time. How blessed am I, both with my treatment and being able to help.

I have come a long way since April 2011, when I was told I had 24 to 36 months to live. But as I have said, I was lucky and was offered an opportunity to participate in a clinical trial of a new drug and it has worked great. This drug could truly be a blockbuster for my cancer and a couple others. And it has given me more time. How much, no one can for sure say. I just know I am grateful for what it has done and looks like it can do in the future.

With time and repetition, jobs or things we do may become less exciting. I think that is just human nature. Today I try not to take as much for granted as I did several years ago.

But I don't think pilots take for granted their ability to fly. I've been able to travel and see a good bit of the world both in business and in personal travel. When possible, I've asked pilots including those older pilots who fly the long, overseas flights if the thrill of flying is still there, and they said yes.

I am fortunate, as many of us are. And we don't have to look too far to find others not so fortunate. So that is why as soon as I heard about Pilots for Patients, I called Philip Thomas up and became a patron. And I have been a patient. And I was honored to be asked to serve on the Board of Directors. I will do my best to help this fine organization and to help others thru PFP.



I repeat what others have said in this column, in that I am honored to give back and to help people while working with PFP. I think we all have to reach an age, or stage of maturity, along with the combination of us either having or making time, where we recognize the importance of helping others.

With the help of others and this great drug I am on, I have been given more time. I hope to use it in a beneficial manner, to help others have the same chances I have been given. And I think working with PFP is a wonderful avenue to do so.

*Ryan Chappell, board member, patient, and patron*

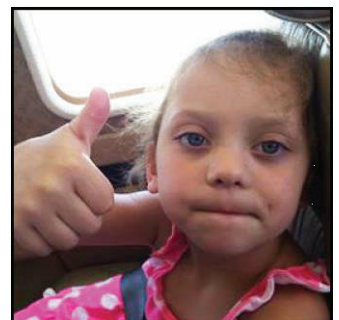


Pilot Andy Barham  
patient W.E. McDonald

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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Patient  
Sara Grace Young



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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 !!!

**UPCOMING EVENT !! SAVE THE DATE**

**5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon**

Pilots for Patients would like to invite you to join us on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for our awards luncheon from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our new hangar located at 5110 Operations Road at the Monroe Regional Airport on the south end of the field. The PFP hangar will have our Pilots for Patients sign on the front of the building.

This 5<sup>th</sup> annual event is being held so that all involved with Pilots for Patients can get together to see old friends while making new friends. Come meet the Pilots, Patrons, Patients, Board of Directors, Volunteer Support Team and Ground Angels. Lunch will be provided by Duane Humphries of the Warehouse Restaurant. Various awards will be presented including the PILOT OF THE YEAR award.

Please RSVP by calling (318) 322-5112, send an email to us at [pfp@pilotsforpatients.org](mailto:pfp@pilotsforpatients.org), or fax to (318) 388-4924. We are in the planning process right now and we need to know how many are going to be in attendance for this luncheon.

If you are in the Monroe area or plan to fly a patient in or out of Monroe, be sure to stop by the new hangar to refuel and to meet and greet Director Philip Thomas or our intern Heidi or Stacey manning the pumps. This hangar in progress will provide an area for pilots and patients to rest and refresh while in Monroe.

If you plan to refuel, be sure to notify the office at 318 322 5112. While you are there, check out the golf cart, donated by our friends John Smith and Clyde Albritton, used to transport patients to and from their plane.



**TOP 11**

10/1/2012 – 7/31/2013

First	Last	Total
Philip	Thomas	36
Donald	Imhoff	30
Clay	Dean	27
Andy	Barham	14
Florence	Bethard	14
Philip	Coyne	11
Bo	Hunter	9
Guy	Williams	9
Wayne	Petrus	7
Larry	Lehmann	7

**SINCE THE BEGINING**

1/14/2008 – 7/31/2013

**347**  
patients have requested our services

**267**  
actually flew

**1714**  
missions flown/driven

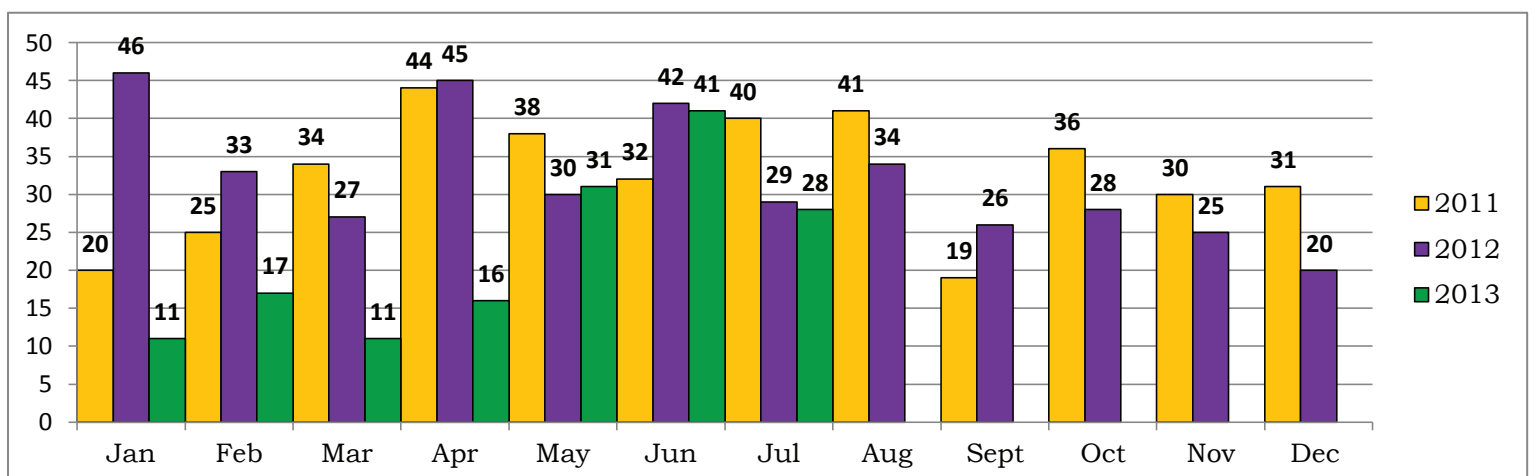
**613,243**  
miles flown/driven

**4631.8**  
hours flown/driven

## Pilot Mission Count – 1/14/2008 – 7/31/2013

First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total	First	Last	Total
Ralph	Abraham	17	Allen	Ford	4	Brooks	Monypeny	4
Edward	Angel	2	Robert	Gafford	1	Joe	Neathamer	7
Warner	Angelle	13	Jim	Gardner	1	Robert	Nelson	1
Bob	Bailey	13	John	Gaumnitz	2	Keith	Odom	69
Everett	Baird	5	Ronald	Girlinghouse	1	Daniel	Oppenheim	3
Jack	Baker	2	Bruce	Goodbee	1	Dennis	Pennington	1
Andy	Barham	147	Donald	Goodman	1	Peter	Perez	2
Edwards	Barham	27	Craig	Gregory	1	Wayne	Petrus	83
Erle	Barham	1	Michael	Gusko	2	Pilot	PFP	11
Jason	Barrette	1	David	Gutierrez	1	Scott	Phelps	5
Robert	Bash	4	Abraham	Hakim	2	David	Powell	4
Florence	Bethard	44	Michael	Hall	1	Stephen	Roberts	2
Mike	Blakeney	19	Michael	Harris	10	Mark	Robertson	14
Ryan	Blakeney	2	Jack	Hayhurst	3	William	Runyon	29
Kurt	Blankenship	3	Pilot	HGA	14	John	Rutledge	8
Warren	Brown	5	Wade	Hosea	18	Phillip	Schaitel	2
Clifford	Brown	3	Ben	Hulsey	1	Terrell	Sharplin	1
Bill	Buck	2	Bo	Hunter	70	Riaz	Siddiqi	16
Dan	Chase	34	Donald	Imhoff	161	Travis	Smith	6
Darryl	Christen	1	John	Jacobi	3	Steve	Smith	3
Michael	Clay	42	James	Johnson	19	Scot	Stanley	4
Richard	Cloud	18	Bradley	Jones	15	Aaron	Styron	4
Arthur	Cole	11	Marty	King	17	Philip	Thomas	215
Ed	Collins	5	Dale	Lambert	5	J Smith	Thomas	2
Philip	Coyne	68	Daniel	LaRocque	4	Christopher	Trahan	34
Ronald	Crawford	1	Larry	Lehmann	51	Alair	Tudor	3
Charles	Crochet	1	Mark	Lobell	1	Monte	Warne	1
Quincy	Dalton	7	Hugh	McFarland	3	Robert	Watters	1
Thomas	Dansby	3	William	McGehee	13	Doug	White	27
Dennis	Daray	5	Glenn	McGovern	4	Clyde	White	15
Clay	Dean	50	Mac	McKenzie	45	Guy	Williams	33
Carlton	Dufrechou	2	William	McMahan	1	Richard	Worthington	10
Robert	Eisenstadt	2	Morris	Mintz	10			

## 2011 - 2013 Pilots for Patients Missions





## PATIENTS and PILOTS



Heidi Higginbotham, pilot Florence Bethard and patient Richard Woodruff



Patient John Dugger and pilot J.S. Thomas



Patient Mary Ashcraft, pilot Chris Trahan and Pat Holley



Pilot Larry Lehmann and patient Marie Pleasant



Pilot Alair Tudor and patient Lee Jarmon



Patient Dennis Plummer and his wife Carmen

Keeping our patients as our #1 priority is the inspiration and secret behind our organization's success. Our fleet of volunteer pilots, together with the support of airport and FBO staffs, our ground angel partners the Houston Ground Angels, generous patrons, medical staff, social workers, our mission coordinator, and many other supportive volunteers continue to make a difference in the lives of so many of our friends and neighbors here in Louisiana. Despite whatever medical challenge our

## PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, ETC.



Our oldest (92) patient Richard “Doc” Worthington and intern Heidi Higginbotham



Philip Thomas receiving his 200<sup>th</sup> mission flown pin from Director Sharon Thomas



FBO Owner/Manager Jason Bullock, who has donated our hangar sign, also has pilots who fly patients in JPS Aviation aircraft.



John Smith, Clyde Albritton and Philip Thomas with donated golf cart



Mark Robertson receiving a case of oil from Philip Thomas for flying 10 missions.



Patient Richard Woodruff and pilot Don Imhoff flying PFP's 1700th mission.

patients are going through, we see smiles. Our dedicated pilots smile too, they love what they do! Others smile inside and out as they help in many other ways. Pilots for Patients is grateful to all it's supporters whether it be cases of oil, money, prayers, or even a golf cart to transport patients to and from the aircraft to the FBO here in Monroe. We are proud of our pilots who have reached mission milestones and all our active pilots. Thank you to everyone who contributes in one way or another to making a difference.



## Mission Milestones

<b>Mission</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Pilot(s)</b>	<b>Patient</b>
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

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



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.

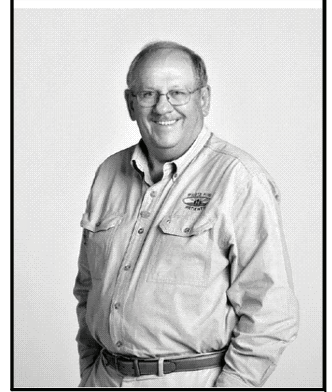
**PATIENTS - please contact the mission coordinator at 318-322-5112 to schedule your flight requests. Please DO NOT contact the pilots directly. All requests must go through the mission coordinator. Please call or fax your mission requests as soon as you have the dates for your next appointment.**

## Pilot Spotlight

**Don Imhoff** ..... a person of character:

CONSIDERING, he is using his love of flying to help others. Through the organization Pilots for Patients, he flies people in need of medical diagnosis and treatment to medical facilities not available to them where they live. He wants to eliminate the burden of travel and allow the patients he transports to concentrate on getting ell.

CONSIDERING, since joining Pilots for Patients in 2010, he has flown more than 150 missions at no cost to others. He pays for all gas and maintenance himself, and often flies 6 hours in a single day. He has been known to drive a patient to and from the hospital using his pilot car, supplied by the airport. "I always wanted to do something for mankind. Once I did one or two flights for Pilots for Patients, I was hooked."



CONSIDERING, he's been named Pilot of the Year two years in a row with this Monroe-based organization.

CONSIDERING, he still flies the Cessna Cardinal RG that he bought in 1976. It is completely refurbished. Formerly he used it just for pleasure trips or vacationing with family; he now spends most of his airtime in the company of those he barely knows. "Pilots like to fly. They will fly to a neighboring city just to have what we call 'the \$100 hamburger.' At least Pilots for Patients serves another purpose, and I get to fly."

CONSIDERING, he is the devoted husband to Maxine, to whom he has been married for 30 years. He has even been known to whip up a cake or two in their kitchen.

CONSIDERING, he retired from Albemarle in 2009 after 43 years as an analytical chemist and decided to stay active and get involved in the community. "I'm not a musician or an artist. Those couldn't be hobbies for me. I'm a logical thinker, and flying an airplane is very logical."

CONSIDERING, those who fly with him love him. He gets to know some patients whose treatments continue over months or even years. He asks about their prognosis. He inquires about their families. He makes an effort to comfort them. He has received all sorts of gifts, including a crate of tomatoes from a patient's garden. "They tell us not to shy away from asking about their health. Caring for others is a big part of the reason I do it."

*Article by Ashley Sexton Gordon, Editor in Register Magazine/Baton Rouge, LA*

## A word from your Coordinator

Think back to when you joined Pilots for Patients. Remember the feeling you got when you flew your first flight? How about the big hug, hearty handshake, or the cookies and homemade card you received when you flew someone to their treatment or flew them home? If you haven't flown in a while or haven't flown your first mission yet, those feelings are out there waiting for you. If you have been flying, why not share those stories with your fellow pilots and encourage them to sign up with Pilots for Patients. We provide an opportunity for pilots to use their time and talent to help others and there is no better feeling than to know you have made a difference in someone's life. Visit the website often as requests are increasing and we need your help. New pilots can submit an application online or download an application on our website at [www.pilotsforpatients.org](http://www.pilotsforpatients.org). I am proud of all my pilots for all they do for me and PFP. I am also proud to be the mission coordinator for such a fine organization that provides such a wonderful service. **Beth Stone**



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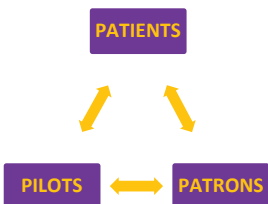
Office: 318 322 5112  
Fax: 318 388 4924

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](mailto:pfp@pilotsforpatients.org)

### Thank you to our sponsors and friends

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