

The National Aeronautic Association and
the Air Care Alliance

Present the

Public Benefit Flying Awardees



Going Above and Beyond

The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) and the Air Care Alliance (ACA) created these national awards in order to recognize the significant contributions to the Nation of volunteer-based Public Benefit Flying and the outstanding work of the individuals and organizations engaged in this humanitarian activity.

2013 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot *Hank Stoebenau, Angel Flight East*



For more than 13 years Hank Stoebenau has served as an Angel Flight East volunteer, demonstrating extraordinary commitment, generosity, and dedication as a pilot, committee worker, event planner, and Board Member. He is invaluable, filling those hard-to-fill last minute missions, and he has a reputation for going above and beyond for his passengers, ensuring that their needs always come first. Hank's hard work and dedication extends far beyond the sky, serving in many roles furthering the service of all the volunteer pilots of this large regional group.

Outstanding Achievement in Public Benefit Flying *AERObridge*



AERObridge created a nationwide network of volunteer aircraft owners, operators, FBOs, and pilots willing to donate their time, effort, and funding for the alleviation of the suffering of those in need due to disaster or circumstance – all of which was put to use in their tremendous response in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

By coordinating and matching donated aircraft with emergency response teams and critical supplies in times of catastrophic emergency they provide a vital window of assistance to save lives and aid those in need.

Outstanding Achievement in Public Benefit Flying *Civil Air Patrol*



In response to Hurricane Sandy, members of the Civil Air Patrol provided aerial imagery to FEMA as well as to state and local relief agencies, providing a remarkable level of support and information regarding damage, impact, and surveillance, all crucial for the recovery efforts and the welfare of many East Coast residents, as well as setting a new standard of service for future natural disasters. One hundred CAP aircrews flew 696 sorties, logging

1,407 flight hours, and more than 250 members worked thousands of man-hours in more than two months as part of the response.

Public Benefit Flying Teamwork Award *ORBIS and Fed Ex*



ORBIS and FedEx have exhibited a thirty year partnership in public benefit flying to fight blindness and vision impairment around the world through the use of flying eye hospitals and medical personnel, as envisioned by ORBIS founder Al Ueltschi. They have aided more than 18

million people in more than 90 countries since the program's inception.

These two organizations have served as leaders in showing the global community what can be done by combining quality health care with the mobility of aviation to combat preventable health problems that limit the abilities of citizens in developing countries from reaching their full life potential.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

The AOPA Air Safety Institute



The institute's online course "Public Benefit Flying: Balancing Safety and Compassion" was developed to enhance public benefit flying's safety culture by helping volunteer pilots learn to mitigate pressures, manage risk, and avoid harm. Promoted by AOPA and the Air Care Alliance, the course's flight profiles and interactive decision-making scenarios help pilots understand how volunteer flying demands professionalism and responsibility – far beyond that of a leisurely personal flight. The course provides uniform safety education through an online public benefit flying course which may be used by all public benefit flying volunteers and their organizations to nurture safe operations.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

Greater Washington Aviation Open



As the largest aviation charity event in Washington, DC, for more than twenty five years the Greater Washington Aviation Open fundraising effort has raised more than \$1.8 million to benefit organizations flying cancer patients (Corporate Angel Network) and wounded warriors (Veterans Airlift Command), and by educating future aviation leaders through scholarships awarded to deserving minority students majoring in aeronautical engineering at major universities. This fundraiser brings the entire aviation community together, "Fore a Great Time...Fore a Great Cause."

2012 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Susan Lapis, Southwings



Susan Lapis earned her wings in 1992 and has been a volunteer pilot for SouthWings since early 1999. SouthWings is a non-profit conservation organization that provides skilled pilots and aerial education to enhance conservation efforts across the Southeastern United States. Susan's 14 years of service exemplified by her dedication, commitment, and passion for flying and conservation has made her one of SouthWings' premier and most beloved pilots. *Flying Adventures* magazine referred to her as a "Flying Friend to the Environment" and noted that "the enthusiasm of Susan...is a dazzling thing to behold." She is being honored for her extraordinary accomplishments based on her demonstrated long-term, unwavering, selfless sacrifice of resources, time, and expertise for the betterment of humankind.

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Del Reiff, Wings Of Hope



Del Reiff is a "Pilot's Pilot"-- someone who is not simply a good or competent pilot but one who approaches flying and aviating with a unique set of skills. Through Wings of Hope, which has Bases of Operation in 45 countries, Del has used his aviation skills for decades to serve mankind on several continents. He has flown more than 3,900 hours. As an example, in 2002 Del transported Conchita, an eight-year-old girl who was suffering from a traumatic head wound and was comatose, from San Pedro on the Ambergris Key to medical facilities in Merida, Mexico. Nine years later, a

woman approached Del while he was walking on the streets of San Pedro, Belize. She told him she was the mother of that child, Conchita. Conchita had finished at the top of her class and was now teaching school. Del is at home as an Aviator and Mechanic in remote places from the war-torn Congo to the Amazon Jungles. Tribal people in six countries call Del "friend."

Distinguished Volunteer Award

Debi Boies, Pilots N Paws



For Debi Boies, creating a national organization that has greatly contributed to the public good by transporting rescue animals from high kill shelters to rescues and forever homes was a natural progression from her life dedicated as a rescue volunteer. The idea for Pilots N Paws first began in 2001 when she drafted a colleague to fly a rescued Doberman, which had been badly injured in dog fights, to a facility where he would be cared for. Pilots N Paws is the story of pilots banding together to save the lives of innocent animals. The PNP inbox

is flooded with thank you notes from people whose newest addition to their family was flown to them by PNP. Last month PNP heard from a woman named Fran who adopted a Yorkie named Snickers. Fran wrote, "I wanted you to know the impact and joy you've created by rescuing her. She is much loved and is getting me healthy. I love her to pieces. Thank you for bringing her. New job. New dog. Life is good. Thank you." Thousands of notes share the same sentiments that many of the dogs given a second chance at life flown by a PNP pilot inevitably repay the favor to their new owners.

Distinguished Volunteer

Larry Scheffler, Miracle Flights For Kids



Since 1985, Larry Scheffler has volunteered as a fundraiser, Board Member, donor, business advisor, and cheerleader. Larry's impact on Miracle Flights is attributed to his love of general aviation and children.

Bound by a common commitment to improve the quality of life for all, Larry joined Miracle Flight's Mission to let no barrier stop a child from reaching the care he or she needs...not time, distance, or money. To date, with his help, Miracle Flights for Kids has provided more than 73,000 free general aviation, corporate, and commercial flights and flown more than 38 million miles on behalf of sick children in every state to get them to life-saving treatments they so desperately need. Larry has been a "Miracle Worker" for Miracle Flights for Kids.

Outstanding Achievement In Advancement Of Public Benefit Flying *Bob Showalter And Showalter Flying Service*



Since 1945, Showalter Flying Service, named one of the top Best Independent FBO's in the U.S. each of the last ten years by Professional Pilot magazine, has been striving to make aviators feel at home regardless of whether Orlando is their domicile or just their destination. They are proudly Florida's oldest and largest family-owned FBO, now entering their third generation. At the helm is Bob Showalter, who is celebrating his 33rd year at the company. Bob has served as chairman of the National Air Transportation Association, serves on the National Business Aviation Association

Security Council and was awarded NBAA's prestigious American Spirit Award. More than 60 years of tireless work has resulted in the company's reputation for outstanding service and quality. They are committed to quality, efficiency, and prompt service, delivered with a smile. The organization has gone far beyond the call of duty in the support of numerous Public Benefit Flying Organizations.

Champion Of Public Benefit Flying *Lightspeed Aviation Foundation*



Lightspeed Aviation Foundation promotes a vibrant and growing pilot community, supports education that will preserve and extend the future of aviation, and uses their gifts given to the aviation community to serve others for the betterment of our world. Their work furthers the future of aviation for later generations. As members of the aviation community, they seek ways to partner with all members of the pilot world to advance the future of aviation. Their goal is to work together to identify worthy causes, give pilots a voice in who they will support and, together, work to make a lasting difference, including in the Public Benefit Flying community.

2011 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Award *Dick Gooch, Angel Flight Central*



Dick Gooch has distinguished himself as an exemplary volunteer serving Angel Flight Central, its volunteers, and those they help using aviation. For 14 years he has been faithful as volunteer staff member, outreach ambassador, board member, donor, pilot, and advocate for patients, pilots, and staff, as well as handyman extraordinaire. Dick's contribution to mission coordination and dedication has helped shape the integrity of public benefit flying.

Dick has flown 38 flights transporting people in need of medical treatment but what truly distinguishes Dick are his additional 5,087 volunteer hours. His commitment on a daily basis eases the staff's workload and alleviates the financial burden of hiring another paid staff member.

Dick Gooch has contributed his time, treasure and talent to Angel Flight Central. Through all these endeavors Dick goes about his business in a low key fashion shying away from any sort of recognition.

Distinguished Volunteer Award

Larry A. Lemke, Wings of Hope



Larry has been a major force in Wings of Hope's growth and success for 16 years. His extraordinary work extends worldwide. Under his leadership and vision, Wings of Hope was nominated for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

In addition to his responsibilities as Chairman of Wings of Hope Larry contributes "on the ground and in the air." His volunteer service in daily operations ranges from helping with community events to his role as a medical mission pilot for the Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program. Larry was instrumental in establishing MAT in 2003, which provides critically-needed medical treatment for the poor.

From flying 1,100 American flights providing advanced healthcare domestically to flying hundreds of international missions totaling more than 7,000 charitable hours Larry exemplifies Public Benefit Flying. This lifelong aviator donates his time and his leadership as Chairman of Wings of Hope.

Larry serves his fellow man. His passion in helping the poorest of the poor realize their dreams and gain self-sufficiency is exemplary and inspires us all to do more.

Outstanding Achievement in Public Benefit Flying

Bruce Robin Stoddard and Wright Flight Inc.



Robin Stoddard conceived the idea and developed the curriculum and video lessons for Wright Flight, Inc., named for the Wright brothers. In the early days of the program Robin did all the planning and the flying.

Since then, for more than 25 years Robin Stoddard and Wright Flight have used the powerful motivator of aviation to help America's children stay in school and attain higher personal and educational goals. The program emphasizes overcoming adversity using the Wright brothers, Tuskegee airmen, NASA astronauts, and Women in Aviation as examples. Relying almost entirely on volunteer teachers, pilots, and ground crews, the program currently operates in nine states and has more than 20,000 graduates.

The dedicated service of Robin Stoddard and Wright Flight to American children using aviation has helped them to discover that they too have the Wright Stuff.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

Citation Special Olympics Airlift



In July 2010 the Citation Special Olympics Airlift capped a two-year planning effort led by Cessna Aircraft Company involving more than 200 employee volunteers and some 160 volunteered Cessna Citation business jets. The crews and aircraft provided transportation for more than 800 Special Olympic athletes to the quadrennial Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska.

An eight member Cessna core team led the 2010 effort by assembling and coordinating the fleet of Citations. The team matched athletes having varying schedules traveling from 26 states with the many aircraft and their diverse departure locations.

The Cessna volunteers were responsible for all activity airside at each airport to keep the airlift running smoothly. They arrived early and stayed late on both the event arrival and

departure days to ensure the athletes were treated as Olympians.

Volunteers of the Cessna Citation Special Olympics Airlift 2010 gave wings to the hopes and aspirations of hundreds of American Special Olympic athletes.

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Dr. Lewis Young, Angel Flight Central



Dr. Young has distinguished himself as a volunteer pilot in support of public benefit flying because of his consummate compassion for patients and his dedication to the mission of charitable aviation. In the nine years he has served as a volunteer for Angel Flight Central he has flown more than 700 medical transport flights. He also dedicates his time, talent and treasure to other charitable aviation efforts in his community in rural Larned, Kansas.

Someone who flies as often as Lewis does for Angel Flight Central, typically several flights a week, is making a massive commitment of time, talent, patience, and resources. The financial dedication alone makes Lewis one of the most distinguished pilots in the sky. But it has become clear to all those who know him that it is all about the people, not the cost. Lewis provides individuals with hope, interacting with passengers with a spirit of generosity, dedication, and compassion, demonstrating exemplary support for public benefit flying.

2010 Awardees

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Bahamas Habitat



Since 2006 Bahamas Habitat (BH) has primarily provided aviation support for sub-standard housing repair and disaster response in the Bahamas. BH responded just two days after the devastating earthquake struck Haiti. BH collaborated with other groups and coordinated hundreds of flights in support of relief efforts by utilizing more

than 120 volunteer pilots to deliver over 150,000 pounds of critical supplies and nearly 300 passengers, transported to or from seven airports throughout Haiti. Bahamas Habitat's focus on the airlift was to supply the outlying cities and towns of Haiti so as to distribute supplies directly where many refugees were fleeing. Their motto of "God's Love Takes Flight" was proven.

Public Benefit Flying Teamwork Award

National Business Aviation Association, AERObridge and Bahamas Habitat on behalf of All Volunteers and Organizations Providing Relief After the Haiti Earthquake



Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January, 2010, these organizations and volunteers flew to the aid of the people of Haiti. During a time of great need they provided relief, rescue, and support for the victims and the emergency workers. Through the collaboration of these organizations and volunteers 675 flights with 3,400 passengers and 1,200,000 lbs of critical supplies were flown to those in need. The passengers included medical personnel, relief workers, newly adopted children, injured patients, and missionaries.

These individuals and groups exemplify the best qualities of those using general aviation aircraft in their jobs and their lives.

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Gene Schmidt



Gene gave generously of his resources in the wake of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. He provided his skill, airplane, contacts, financial support, and non-discriminating and selfless generosity, promotional ability, and leadership.

Personally funding most of his missions he flew countless hours carrying relief supplies in addition to transporting medical teams and patients to and from Haiti. His initiative and willingness to accommodate critical needs safely and assuredly was a major service to many on every front of the relief effort. As a volunteer pilot he provided a vital element of the major contribution that Bahamas Habitat made to those in need in Haiti following the disaster. Gene showed his commitment to long-term support by collaborating in the planning and joined Bahamas Habitat's team of first response pilots.

Distinguished Volunteer

Captain Justin Ogden

Civil Air Patrol



Captain Ogden pioneered the development of a cell phone triangulation system that can pinpoint lost and stranded individuals through their cell phones, even including locating the sites of air crashes and other mishaps. This technology has greatly enhanced search and rescue operations across the United States for civilian and military use. Captain Ogden is a go-to resource for the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. This dedicated volunteer utilizes his own time and expense to creatively combine his interests in electronics, Civil Air Patrol, and community service to develop a location analysis program that keeps pace with current technology and helps protect all Americans.

2009 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Mack Secord



Mack Secord is one of 15 original pilots for Angel Flight of Georgia – an organization of volunteer pilots who donate their time and resources to fly people to medical care, oftentimes for lifesaving treatment that they can only reach through free transportation. A former U.S. Air Force pilot who made a daring rescue of 2,000 hostages in the Belgian Congo, Mack received the Mackay Trophy for his heroism. For the past 23 years, he has served as a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight, making hundreds on trips on their behalf. In fact, he was given the first ever

Lifetime Achievement Award by Angel Flight and the award will be named in his honor.

Distinguished Volunteer

Robert J. Munley



Bob Munley's love of aviation goes beyond his mere passion for flying. In 1996, Bob became one of the founding volunteers of Wings of Mercy East Michigan, a volunteer pilot organization that flies needy medical patients free of charge to medical centers within 600 miles of Eastern Michigan. Bob has never received compensation for using airplanes to help people – either as a volunteer pilot or as a Board member, treasurer and mission coordinator for Wings of Mercy East Michigan. Bob has flown over 100 missions, working 80-hour weeks

and has been on the phone round the clock helping those in need. He is committed to safety and has mentored many volunteers. His volunteer efforts have benefited many people.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Corporate Angel Network



Since 1981, the Corporate Angel Network (CAN) has been arranging free air transportation for cancer patients traveling to receive critical treatments. Built upon the dreams of three people whose lives had been devastated by cancer, CAN has arranged over 30,000 lifesaving flights, using empty seats aboard business aircraft making otherwise routine trips. Over 500 corporate participants contribute 3,000 flights annually. CAN's mission eases the physical discomfort, emotional stress, and financial burden of travel for cancer patients. The program

offers an obvious and meaningful benefit to patients, along with the opportunity for companies with business aircraft to provide a valuable community service by merging regular business activities with social responsibility.

2008 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Bruce Bromberg



A resident of Jupiter Florida, Bruce joined Angel Flight Southeast in 2004 and has volunteered and flown over 100 missions each year. He increases his efficiency by combining missions and eliminating deadheading. He remains dedicated to the individuals he flies and will rearrange his schedule in order to fly them again. In addition to piloting, Bruce's contributions to governance has enabled the organization to grow in number of missions flown, outreach efforts and number of volunteers.

Distinguished Volunteer

Larry Gabriel



A pilot since 1957, it was natural for Larry to help form a group to provide free air transportation to people in need. Thus was born Illinois based Lifeline Pilots in 1980, and Larry has been a guiding light for the past 27 years. He has stuck through thick and thin, serving several terms on the Board as vice president and chairman of the finance, public relations and nominating committees. Larry never says "no."

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Lt. Col. Cynthia Ryan



Cynthia served as an international media spokesperson during the search for famed aviator Steve Fossett. She helped get worldwide recognition for CAP and public benefit flying in general by conducting timely and factual briefings that demonstrated the impact volunteer organizations had on the search. The hundreds of interviews she conducted generated more than seven thousand national and international print and broadcast media stories. Nearly a year later, Cynthia continues to respond to ongoing media inquiries.

Teamwork Award

GivingFlite, Alabama Air National Guard and Volunteers Supporting Dreams on Wings



Dreams on Wings is a day of joyous adventure for children who face more hardship than most will ever know. For one day, they and their families come to Birmingham, AL to forget their hardships and focus on fun. Having completed its sixth year, this annual event is made possible by the continuing collaboration of the 117th Air Refueling Wing of the Alabama National Guard, GivingFlite and dozens of dedicated pilots and event volunteers.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

The Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association



AOPA has a long history of honoring volunteer pilots and charitable flying organizations. From the President's office to the mailroom, AOPA contributes time, effort and personnel in support of public benefit flying. From convening the first Public Benefit Flying conference at AOPA headquarters in 1990, to subsequent articles in Pilot magazine and Air Safety Foundation, to providing program and booth space at EXPOs, AOPA is a champion of public benefit flying in the United States.

2007 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Chuck Schroll



Logging more than 160 hours in his first 18 months as volunteer pilot for LightHawk, Chuck didn't ease into the role, he fully embraced it. He's now flying more than 200 hours a year protecting threatened habitat and endangered species throughout North and Central America. An Emergency Room physician in Tucson, Chuck also flies medical missions each month to Baja California, Mexico, with the Flying Samaritans. Passengers regularly comment on Chuck's enthusiasm, unflinching good nature despite adverse conditions, and exemplary backcountry flying skills.

Distinguished Volunteer

Guy Loughridge



As a member of Civil Air Patrol's Colorado Wing Guy has assisted in more than two hundred search-and-rescue missions and helped save 24 lives nationwide. He's also credited with 72 "radar finds" that directed rescuers to precise search areas. Using software he designed and his home computer, Guy sifts through millions of radar blips to find and report likely crash sites. He commits 75 to 90 days per year to this work, a record of volunteer service unsurpassed at CAP.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Peter J. Vanden Bosch



Once comfortably retired in Florida with a house, RV, and boat, Peter felt unfulfilled. At 68 he returned to Michigan and started Wings of Mercy. He worked 80 hour weeks as patient screener, manager, and pilot. Fifteen years later his organization has more than 300 pilots serving the poor in the Midwest. He has personally flown 227 missions. When patients ask him what they owe, he says "a hug." Now 84, he never considers retiring because "the rewards are awesome."

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Terrence Trapnell



Terrence is a bush pilot for Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps serving indigenous poor in interior Brazil. Between missions flying doctors and dentists in and out of 30 wilderness airstrips, Terrence took a quick course in optometry and has now fitted more than 800 patients with glasses. Noting a high incidence of cervical cancer among the people he was helping, he became the onsite OB/GYN coordinator. Terrence's quiet dependability and willingness to assume diverse duties has earned him the acceptance and respect of the people he's serving and the admiration of the public benefit flying community.

Teamwork Award

*Wings of Hope and
Fundacion AeroAmazonica*



Each of these organizations is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the extreme poor. Working together they fund scholarships for students who agree to serve the poor for two years. They make micro business loans to women heads of household, establish chicken and pig farms to provide a sustainable protein supply, air lift excess goods to nearby markets, and provide air ambulance service to 200 western Amazon villages in Ecuador.

2006 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Ted Ruscitti



Ted's first mission was bringing booties to dogs searching the World Trade Center after the 9/11 attacks. When Hurricane Katrina hit, he flew missions for two weeks straight, flying in medical personnel and supplies, that he personally obtained, and flying out evacuees. He spent most nights sleeping in his plane. Ted lives in Pennsylvania, and is a volunteer pilot for many charitable groups. He shares his flight schedule with various Air Care Alliance listed groups in order to fully utilize available seats in his Cheyenne.

Distinguished Volunteer

Jubel Caldwell



Jubel is volunteer Director of Maintenance for Fort Worth based Mercy Med+Flight. For five years he did all the maintenance on its Cessna 421, which included three engine changes. When MMF chose to upgrade to a Citation jet he located the aircraft, completed the annual inspection, and corrected all discrepancies. For any maintenance he can't perform, he schedules outside assistance but keeps a watchful eye. He's "on call" for every flight. After 2,300 accident-free hours on two aircraft, Jubel's bill remains the same – no charge.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

All Volunteers and Organization Flying Relief Missions following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita



Within days of Hurricane Katrina hundreds of volunteers working both independently and through organized groups, created a relief effort on par with that established by large relief organizations and government agencies. In the midst of disorder and confusion, these volunteers improvised by establishing contact with local churches and other groups – often from smaller, isolated communities that had been bypassed. It is estimated that some

three thousand volunteer missions were flown, bringing in rescue personnel and supplies and flying out evacuees, exhausted workers, and stranded animals.

Teamwork Award

Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps and Wings of Hope



These two groups' first partnership effort was the operation of a field medical clinic in the Caribbean in 1995. The clinic used small bush planes to transport medical teams and supplies and to evacuate patients requiring additional treatment. Since then, jointly sponsored clinics have been held in Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, and the Appalachian region of the United States. The partnership has provided medical care to more than 5000 of the poorest of the poor.

Teamwork Award

Thomas H. Holcom



Tom is from Missouri and dreamed of a national network of public benefit flying groups that could link missions crossing geographic regions. The result of his vision was the incorporation of Angel Flight America in 2000. Tom and other leaders soon began discussions with AirLifeLine to explore ways they could work together. In 2003 both groups officially merged. The expanded AFA reports a roster of 7000 volunteer pilots and 20,000 flights per year.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

Continental Airlines



Since 1994 Continental Airlines has quietly and generously supported LightHawk's environmental protection work in Central America by providing free airline tickets for their volunteer pilots and staff working in Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama. Continental's commitment has never wavered — even during the severe economic downturns the airline industry suffered during this period. And the airline has never sought to publicize its generosity and support for protecting Central America's

threatened natural environments. This award acknowledges their significant contribution to charitable aviation's good work of flying to help others.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

The Nation's Air Traffic Controllers



Whenever a flight uses a call sign such as Compassion, Lifeguard, Angel Flight, CAP, or Young Eagles, each air traffic controller makes an effort to provide appropriate handling. This can mean moving a patient's flight ahead of 30 airliners waiting for takeoff in Atlanta; being "cleared direct" New York to Philadelphia, or vectored "straight in" to Boston when others are told: "expect delay." Public benefit pilots have experienced these and many other courtesies by ATC to help comfort their passengers and speed them on their way for medical care.

2005 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

John William Boulton, Jr.



Bill has flown more than 150 flights comprising 2000 flight hours for the all-volunteer Angel Flight Inc. of Oklahoma. In addition to his generous contribution of an average cost of \$1,300 per flight, he has also purchased airline tickets for numerous stranded patients. Bill has been a spokesperson and recruiter for charity flying throughout Oklahoma and across the nation. He is an active Board member and volunteer pilot for Angel Flight of Oklahoma and the EAA Young Eagles program. Bill was 83 years old when presented with his award.

Distinguished Volunteer

Stephan Fopeano



A 16 year volunteer for Angel Flight West, Stephan is the driving force behind the Angel Flight Information Database System. The database allows several Angel Flight groups to increase the number of missions administered without adding staff and it is indispensable in streamlining operations. From Los Angeles, Stephan spends countless hours on the phone and email cheerfully assisting other regions without charge. He's always accessible, often working nights to resolve problems more quickly.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

LightHawk



Founded in 1979, LightHawk pioneered the use of public benefit flying for environmental protection. Its 140 volunteer pilots fly 500 missions a year for hundreds of environmental groups throughout North and Central America. LightHawk brings the unique perspective of flight to shed light on environmental issues. Its success inspired formation of like-minded regional groups such as Southwings in the Southeastern US, Northern Wings in the Northeast US, Ecoflight in Colorado, and Bateleurs in South Africa.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying *Angel Flight West*



Santa Monica based Angel Flight West has been an innovative leader since its inception in 1984. It expanded the traditional mission of medical care flights for patients to transporting victims of domestic violence, delivering holiday gifts to Navajo children, bringing special needs kids to camp, and reuniting wounded veterans with their families. It co-sponsored the first national public benefit flying conference, Air Med 90, originated the “wing organization” system in order to leverage local interest among pilots, and developed the database program now used by most Angel Flight America affiliated groups.

Teamwork Award

Mission Coordinators from Angel Flight East, Angel Flight of Georgia, Angel Flight of Oklahoma, CairFlight, LifeLine pilots and the Volunteer Pilots Association



Mission Coordinators from six independent public benefit flying groups have developed a close working relationship that extends their reach to 37 contiguous states and the District of Columbia; a region that includes many world renowned medical centers. The Coordinators have become family, and there is nothing they wouldn't do for each other. They are united by their common purpose to help those in financial and medical need get the care they

require and deserve.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

Alaska Airlines



Alaska Airlines provides financial support to non-profit organizations assisting people in need in the communities it serves. For the past twenty years Alaska Airlines has given free air travel vouchers to Angel Flight West for patients who require air transport to obtain medical treatment but cannot afford the cost. Thus far, Alaska Airlines' contributions to Angel Flight West have totaled approximately 3.5 million dollars.

2004 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

Dr. Robert N. Cleaves



Following stints as a fighter pilot and missionary pilot, Robert founded and funded the Wilderness Conservancy and flew anti-poaching and medical missions to remote villages in southern Africa from 1986-96. In 2000 he began the Conservancy's Project Care, flying humanitarian missions to villages in Baja California, Mexico. There Robert furnished an ambulance and medical clinic, and provided two school buses, computers, and educational supplies to local schools to improve life in impoverished communities.

Distinguished Volunteer

Wanda Whitsitt



After learning to fly at age 50, Wanda pioneered volunteer flying in 1980 by founding Lifeline Pilots and serving as its Mission Coordinator for the first ten years. She had a telephone ringing in her Peoria home day and night with requests for assistance and pilots calling to offer help. Wanda no longer flies but still serves on the group's Board of Directors. By 2004 the organization she founded had transported more than 2,500 persons to needed medical treatment when no other means was available to them. Her pioneering effort served as a

blueprint for other volunteer pilot groups.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

J. Craig Honaman



Craig established the first hospital-based aeromedical program in a small city. Having flown medical evacuation helicopters in Vietnam, Craig developed formulas to project the number of missions required, their potential life-saving benefit, and the finances required to provide emergency medical transport in smaller cities. After establishing two hospital-based programs in Florida, Craig helped develop aeromedical standards at state and federal levels, expanding the use of aviation by hospitals and providing urgent care to more citizens.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Wings of Hope



Since 1962 Wings of Hope has placed more than 140 aircraft in the United States and around the world to provide medical assistance to the poor. Volunteer pilots, mechanics, and nurses usually serve in remote and sometimes inhospitable areas. Missions include transporting sick and injured, distributing medical supplies, and bringing health care volunteers to those in need. In 2003 Wings started a free Medical Air Transport service based in St. Louis to serve needy non-ambulatory patients in the Midwest.

Teamwork Award

Angel Flight America Mission Coordinators



The Mission Coordinators for Angel Flight America created a national network to facilitate linking humanitarian flights across the United States. Though Joint Operational Protocols they are able to link missions connecting six geographic regions of the U.S. Such coordination was critical in arranging humanitarian flights after hurricanes, tornadoes, and the attacks on 9/11. Most recently, the Coordinators were able to provide flights home for wounded soldiers and Marines on convalescent leave from Iraq.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

America West Airlines



Through its Miles of Hope program the flying public can donate Flightfund miles to the Red Cross, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Angel Flight America. Each charity is then able to provide airline transportation for its clients. Since its inception in 1998, more than 55 million miles have been donated to these organizations. Under this successful program, Angel Flight America has been able to provide airline tickets to 2,100 patients and family members who could not afford the cost of air travel.

2003 Awardees

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot

David Altman



Based in Philadelphia, David had flown more than 220 missions for Angel Flight East by 2003. When there was a last minute request he was the first person called. If his plane was in for maintenance he recruited someone else to help; by the time of his award he had helped recruit 23 new pilots. “No words can express what that man has done for our family,” said a mother whose daughter David flew for treatments over a period of two years. David was 81 years old when he received his award.

Distinguished Volunteer

Kevin Sell



Kevin helped found the Volunteer Pilots Association and has been “on call” 24/7 for most of the 13 years prior to receiving his award. Never without his cell phone and dog-eared pilots list, Kevin accepts calls any time of day or night to rush a life-saving organ to a waiting transplant recipient. He personally coordinates about 225 missions per year and manages to do all this from his home in Pittsburgh with no paid staff on an annual budget of less than \$6000.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Mercy Med+Flight



As the nation’s first successful free air ambulance operation Mercy Med+Flight had transported 309 patients in 42 states by 2003. Patients are flown by two qualified Citation jet pilots and attended by two qualified medical personnel, one of whom is a registered nurse. Ground support is provided by a volunteer Director of Operations and volunteer Director of Maintenance. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, MMF provides an otherwise very expensive service, made possible only because of its volunteers who donate their professional skills.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying

Tom Goodwin



Tom began public benefit flying's most commonly recognized role of providing free medical transportation for the needy in 1978. AirLife-Line, his Sacramento based organization, grew to become the largest such group in the nation — flying more than 30,000 missions. His work inspired many other groups to provide medical transportation for those who could not otherwise afford it. Tom mended a gap in the nation's healthcare net, and did it while quietly standing out of the limelight.

Teamwork Award

Angel Flight of Oklahoma, Volunteer Pilots Association, and all Pilots and Their Groups Flying Relief Missions Following the 9/11 Attacks



With commercial flights grounded the Oklahoma Blood Institute asked Angel Flight of Oklahoma to transport blood and test kits to New York City. Taking off on the night of September 11, AF OK's plane was met in Louisville, KY by planes from the Volunteer Pilots Association that took the blood to Philadelphia, then on to New York City, arriving at 6:30 AM on September 12. In the following hours and days a half dozen other volunteer groups flew 9/11 support missions — the only civilian aircraft permitted to fly in the Nation's airspace.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying

Civil Air Patrol



The Civil Air Patrol flies tens of thousands of hours each year on search, rescue, and disaster relief missions, and is credited with saving thousands of lives in its 61-year history. CAP supports various federal agencies including Homeland Security, Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Weather Service, as well as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. CAP members volunteer their time, talent, and resources to save lives and mitigate human suffering.

National Public Benefit Flying Award Categories

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot — awarded to an individual or individuals for outstanding service as a pilot volunteer.

Distinguished Volunteer — awarded to an individual or individuals for outstanding service as a non-flying volunteer.

Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying — for outstanding achievement by an individual, group, or organization that helped raise the standard of service of or contributed significantly to the advancement of Public Benefit Flying overall.

Public Benefit Flying Teamwork Award — for outstanding cooperation and coordination involving two or more unaffiliated Public Benefit Flying organizations in the accomplishment of a common mission, task, or objective.

Champion of Public Benefit Flying — awarded to an individual, organization, or company who, while not operationally directly involved in Public Benefit Flying, has provided extraordinary support for such efforts and thus advanced the cause of Public Benefit Flying.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.

The Air Care Alliance is a non-profit umbrella group supporting charitable and volunteer-based flying throughout the United States.

Additional information on the Public Benefit Flying Awards can be found online at either www.naa.aero or www.aircareall.org.

