



Proudly Serving Louisiana,
Western Tennessee and the Mississippi Valley

Pilots for Patients News

A quarterly publication of Pilots for Patients Fall/Winter 2014

Blessed

I can't think of anyone that loves flying any more than I do. Over the past 35 years I have been fortunate to fly many types of airplanes. Back in the early 1980's I was able to fly one of our company's employees several times to Houston as he battled melanoma. I knew then that the blessing I was receiving by flying him was calling me to do more of this type of flying. How many times in life do you get the opportunity to help out another person (sometimes a total stranger) while doing something you love to do? It blesses me every day seeing other pilots getting "hooked" on this type of flying. Sure it is expensive and takes time but the rewards and blessing that we as pilots receive far outweigh the cost.

Many times we fly patients that are literally in a "life and death" battle with various types of illnesses. If you want to really learn how to live just spend some time with someone who is fighting for their life or near death. Things and possessions that I used to think were important now seem trivial. It has truly helped me realize how blessed that I really am with family, friends, finances, employment, faith, and health. Several times I have been able to get patients home to be with their families during their last days. The ability to help with this has been very humbling.

Over the years many of the survivors have become part of my extended family. I still keep track of a couple kids that flew with me many times to St. Jude in Memphis while they were just babies over 9 years ago. Now those two have turned into young men and are walking miracles. It is great to follow their lives and watch them grow and mature in good health. I guarantee you those families take no blessing for granted.

Pilots for Patients has come a long way since the first mission was flown on January 14, 2008. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the future. I appreciate all the pilots and volunteers that continue to make this possible. Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight."

Wayne Petrus, Director and Volunteer Pilot

Wayne Petrus is living proof of God's Grace and His healing power. Wayne continues to pay it forward and lead by example by flying patients as often as his work schedule allows. A true man of God, he is an inspiration to many and truly does make a difference in the lives of others. We are proud to have Wayne as part of the Pilots for Patients family.



Patient K. Barber received her Compassion bag upon arrival from Houston

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

Claiborne Academy	2
Stats/Milestones	3
Patients/Pilots	4
Pilot of the Year.....	5
Info & Reminders	6
Spotlight Organization ..	7
Sponsors/Friends	8



Patient Penny Davis



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Claiborne Academy

Most days you would consider the pilots flying our patients heroes, but we would like you to take a look at a different kind of hero! Please meet our friends from [Claiborne Academy](#), grades K – 12 who have a yearly fundraiser selling t-shirts to raise money to help "Tackle Cancer"! This is the second year [Pilots for Patients](#) has been chosen as the recipient of their fundraiser and it is astonishing that these children raised \$2,750 this year to donate to our organization! We want to say thank you to Coach Patrick Thomas, the staff, parents, and students of Claiborne Academy located in Haynesville, LA for all their support of Pilots for Patients and for truly making a difference in the lives of others.



FYI about PFP

Since our inaugural flight on January 15, 2008, we have flown over 2250 missions, transporting 325 different patients and their companions. Our pilots have flown over 6400 hours for a total of more than 824,000 miles! What a blessing to be able to help so many of our friends and neighbors in Louisiana. With a current roster of 98 pilots, our hope is that we will continue to grow and reach out to more patients in 2015 and beyond. If you know a pilot who would like to give back or pay it forward with their time and flying skills, tell them about Pilots for Patients. They will be blessed as they are blessing others.

A Word From Your Coordinator

I cannot believe how quickly another year has gone by. We have been blessed to have nearly 60 new patients request our help, we have added 20 new pilots to our roster and many new patrons and volunteers have joined in our mission to ease the burden of traveling to medical treatment. All are needed for our organization to grow.

Our belief in making our patients our #1 priority makes us the strong, compassionate organization we are today. Thank you to everyone who played a part in a very blessed 2014. I thank God every day for Pilots for Patients and the work we all do together. He has been with us from the beginning when this was all a dream in our Founders head and heart. He continues to watch over us and guides good people to our family.

I look forward to 2015 and working together to truly make a difference in the lives of others. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. *Beth Stone, Mission Coordinator*

Online Donations can be made on our website at:

www.pilotsforpatients.org with PayPal or your Credit Card.

Thank You for supporting Pilots for Patients !!!

Pilot Air Mission Count for 2014

Name		Missions	Name		Missions	Name		Missions
Alair	Tudor	4	Drew	Coats	2	Peter	Perez	7
Andy	Barham	14	Erle	Barham	1	Philip	Coyne	4
Arthur	Cole	3	Florence	Bethard	19	Philip	Thomas	20
Bo	Hunter	19	Guy	Williams	3	Pilot	CenturyLink	3
Bobby	Bailey	3	Heidi	Higginbotham	8	Ralph	Abraham	2
Bradley	Jones	2	Hugh	McFarland	6	Riaz	Siddiqi	1
Brian	Barham	7	Jack	Hayhurst	1	Richard	Rose	2
Brooks	Monypeny	2	James	Johnson	16	Robert	Bash	6
Charles	Woods	9	James	McDonald	33	Ronald	Crawford	1
Charlie	Adams	17	Jason	Clements	3	Troy	Kyle	5
Christopher	Trahan	12	J. Smith	Thomas	4	Wally	Mulhearn	3
Clay	Dean	36	Larry	Lehmann	7	Warner	Angelle	4
Clyde	White	4	Mark	Robertson	1	Warren	Brown	2
Danny	Jackson	1	Marty	King	5	Wayne	Petrus	16
David	Gutierrez	8	Michael	Clay	5	William	McGehee	2
Dolphus	McKenzie	11	Michael	Harris	1	William	McMahan	1
Donald	Imhoff	28	Mike	Bader	2			

(through October 31, 2014)

Top 10 Air Missions in 2014

Name	Missions
Clay Dean	36
James McDonald	33
Donald Imhoff	28
Philip Thomas	20
Florence Bethard	19
Bo Hunter	19
Charlie Adams	17
James Johnson	16
Wayne Petrus	16
Andy Barham	14

(through October 31, 2014)

Ground Missions in 2014

Name	Missions
Donald Imhoff	4
Arthur Cole	3
Heidi Higginbotham	3
Wayne Petrus	3
Philip Thomas	2

(through October 31, 2014)

Mission Milestones

The following pilots have reached significant milestones as members of Pilots for Patients.

50+ missions

Bo Hunter Christopher Trahan Florence Bethard,
Keith Odom Mac McKenzie Philip Coyne Larry Lehmann

100+ missions

Andy Barham Clay Dean Don Imhoff Wayne Petrus,

200+ missions

Philip Thomas

250+ missions

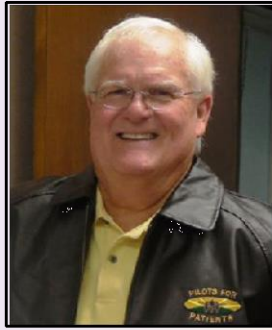
Philip Thomas

Congratulations and thank you to these pilots for their accomplishments. We appreciate all our pilots who fly or make a difference for others by supporting Pilots for Patients in many other ways.

Thoughts and Prayers

We here at Pilots for Patients are moved by the strength, faith and courage of the patients we help along their journey. They touch our hearts with their smiles, kind words, warm hugs, cards, and phone calls. Sadly some do not win their battle for various reasons. We were privileged to help in some small way and will miss them very much. To the family and friends who miss them as well, our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Awards Pilots Patients



Pilot Mac McKenzie in his 50 mission leather jacket



Pilot Clay Dean receiving his 100 mission pin from his wife Darline



Director Sharon Thomas and pilot Christopher Trahan with his 50 mission leather jacket



Director Sharon Thomas and Ray Jennings from Central Oil



Patient Mary Hardwick and pilot Mike Clay



Pilot Marty King, patient Marie Pleasant and director Philip Thomas



Our webmaster Rickey Sewell and his wife Vicki



Pilot Bo Hunter, Directors Richard and Hester Hill, Directors Philip and Sharon Thomas, and Mayor Chris Young at the annual Community Cancer Fund event in Dyersburg, TN



William and Becki Cassell (patient), pilots Heidi Higginbotham and Alair Tudor



Patient Mindy Jones, her daughter Sadie, pilot Florence Bethard and Mindy's mom Annette Epps

2014 Pilot of the Year and Top 10



**JIMMY
MCDONALD**
Glenmora, LA



**PILOT OF THE YEAR
CLAY DEAN**
New Caney, TX



DON IMHOFF
Baton Rouge, LA



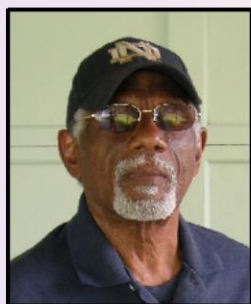
PHILIP THOMAS
Monroe, LA



FLORENCE BETHARD
Monroe, LA



WAYNE PETRUS
Monroe, LA



BO HUNTER
La Marque, TX



JAMES JOHNSON
Wilmot, AR



CHARLIE ADAMS
Rayville, LA



ANDY BARHAM
Oak Ridge, LA

Mission Milestones

First	Monday, January 14, 2008	Wayne Petrus/Bradley Jones	Linda Fox
500th	Thursday, March 4, 2010	Philip Coyne	Christian Billingsley
1000th	Monday, July 25, 2011	Philip Thomas	Lanece Laseter
1500th	Thursday, October 25, 2012	Mark Robertson	Joseph McKenzie
1600th	Tuesday, April 9, 2013	Clay Dean	Stephanie Bond Temple
1700th	Thursday, July 25, 2013	Don Imhoff	Richard Woodruff
1800th	November 12, 2013	Clay Dean	Marie Pleasant
1900th	Saturday, March 15, 2014	Richard Rose	Max McGough
2000th	Friday, May 23, 2014	Jimmy McDonald	Mindy Jones

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 on Facebook [Pilots for Patients](#) Visit the Website at 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.

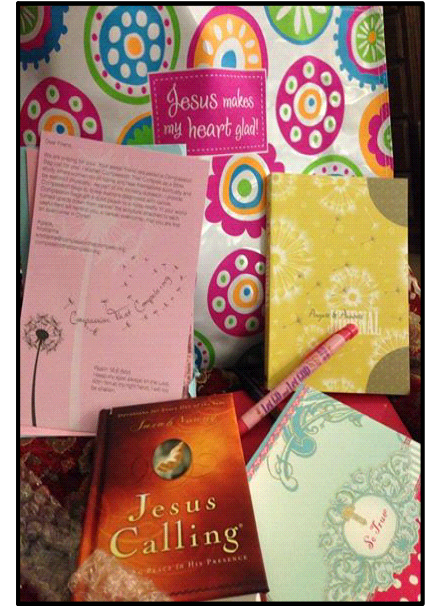
PATIENTS - please contact the mission coordinator at 318-322-5112 to schedule your flight requests. Please DO NOT contact the pilots directly. All requests must go through the mission coordinator. Please call or fax your mission requests as soon as you have the dates for your next appointment.

Compassion that Compels

Compassion That Compels is an organization that is showing and sowing God's love and compassion with Compassion Bags for women battling cancer. Compassion Bags started with a letter and a sweater given to Kristianne Stewart's sister-in-law when she was diagnosed with cancer. The vision was born at this time, over 8 years ago that there was a need for these bags in treatment centers or hospitals. This mission is a true reflection of her heart, encouraging women whose lives have been turned upside down by cancer, that they are first an Overcomer in Christ.

The Compassion Bag itself reflects Kristianne's love of pink and cute. Every bag is filled with items that have scripture on them and serve a special purpose to the recipient. The first item is a Jesus Calling devotional to remind you that you are an Overcomer in Christ. A notebook is included to write down all of those lengthy medical terms you will hear, a journal to record your private moments throughout your journey and of course a pen, because you can never find one when you need it. You will find a reusable mug and scripture tea for you to enjoy when the coffee is nowhere to be found. There are scripture soft mints included in each bag as a sweet treat, along with a Chick-fil-a gift card to enjoy something other than hospital food. Many of the treatment rooms are cold, so there is a small blanket to keep you warm. Each bag is packed with love and prayed over for the person that will receive it.

Pilots for Patients was blessed to be introduced to this amazing organization through one of our very own patients earlier this year. Compassion That Compels has allowed Pilots for Patients to bless 22 of our precious ladies battling cancer with Compassion Bags. We also have bags waiting to bless any new ladies that begin to fly with our organization. At our annual luncheon we were honored to have Kristianne Stewart as our guest speaker. Along with her inspirational story, she brought two guests from Altar'd State in Shreveport, LA who helped to deliver 10 bags they had sponsored for PFP. The delivery of these bags on October 18th marked 998 bags that had been delivered. Patients present joined Kristianne to celebrate this milestone. As a guest of Mindy Jones at our luncheon, Tina Delancey had recently requested to fly with PFP, but had not made her first trip. She was surprised as the presentation of her Compassion Bag was made that day by Patient Amy Avant. Since July 2013 this amazing ministry has blessed 1,145 Overcomers with Compassion Bags across the United States.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING

Pilots for Patients would like to give a big thank you to our friends who have very generously donated soft drinks, water bottles, crackers, blankets, hand sanitizers, etc. for our patients and pilots to enjoy while flying in or out of our new hanger at the Monroe airport. Watch for an updated list of our needed items in the next newsletter.



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Office: 318 322 5112
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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

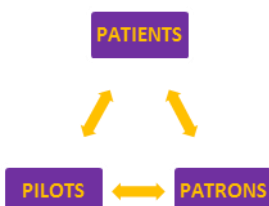
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Paul & Kelly Coburn

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE TODAY