



**Pocock is touched by children flying with Angel Flight.**

## Lovin' from the Oven *Home-baked Cookies Benefit Angel Flight*

Carolyn and Brad Pocock of Mansfield, Ohio, became aware of Angel Flight at Richland Aviation, the FBO they own and operate at the Mansfield Lahm Municipal Airport. "It's a good stop for the volunteer pilots," she said. "We are centrally located and we offer a 50 cent fuel discount.

"The little children would always get to me. I thought, what a great thing that pilots would volunteer their time and aircraft to help these families."

With a desire to raise money for the charity, she decided to bake and sell cookies. In the past, she had bought cookies from a local bakery, then offered them to customers at the FBO at no charge. But, she said, "that got to be expensive, so I decided to bake them myself. Then I thought, why not collect donations for Angel Flight instead of giving them away for free? Customers can have a cookie and know they are giving to a very worthy cause. There is no set price—they can give whatever they like. It's a lot of fun, and I will keep on baking as people keep on giving." So far, she has raised \$124 from sales of her yummy oatmeal, chocolate chip and macadamia nut cookies.

Cookie "dough"—one good-hearted woman's way of funding wings for those in need.



## Wounded Warriors Flying in on Angels' Wings

"There's not enough we can do for them," said Angel Flight pilot Leon Roberts. He was speaking of veterans injured in Iraq and Afghanistan while serving in battle. "I'm a Vietnam vet and went three times over there, but I came home without a scratch."

On October 4, Roberts will be flying a wounded warrior from Walter Reed Army Medical Center to the privately-owned Virginia Beach airport in his Piper Cherokee Six. He doesn't know which veteran he'll be taking to Halos and Heroes '08, but he considers it "a pleasure and a privilege" to help. Last year, at the first Halos and Heroes (a fundraiser for Air Compassion for Veterans), Roberts flew a soldier whose foot had been blown apart from an IED.

Besides Roberts, nine other pilots have volunteered to bring veterans to the event. As with last year, a special honors ceremony is planned to recognize the



**Volunteer pilot David Brown (R) assists an injured veteran he transported from Walter Reed to last year's Halos and Heroes.**

sacrifices of these veterans as well as all members of the military.

The keynote speaker will be Mike Zacchea, a retired major in the U.S. Marine

Corps Reserves. Zacchea was senior advisor to the first U.S. military-trained Iraqi Army battalion. He received two Bronze Stars for valor and a Purple Heart as well as

*(Continued on page 2)*

Climbing on Course

# Forget ‘Get-There-Itis’—Ways To Stay Safe



Steve Craven

I am sure you are all aware of the three fatal accidents that took place in the last few months and involved Angel Flight patients and volunteers. It’s amazing how, after 30 plus years and millions of miles flown, our outreach to people in need suffers three body blows in rapid succession.

While AFMA is not directly involved, we must be proactive and do everything possible to prevent our region from suffering a similar tragedy. It is too early to know the cause of these incidents, but I have a few thoughts on the issue.

- Remember, you do not have to do the flight. If you don’t feel well, are rushed, have squawk issues, etc., cancel! We will find another way.
- Maintain IFR, biannual, day-night, medical currency. Do not fly a mission if you aren’t current. Stay sharp and fly with an instructor as

often as possible.

- Weather—The older I get, the more respect I have for God’s creation. If in doubt about the weather, don’t fly the mission.
- “Get-there-itis”— Forget it! Better late and safe. You are gracious, generous volunteers doing the best that you can.
- Know your airplane and panel. The new hi-tech stuff is great, but in a high workload environment, it can make your head spin. New or old tech, just stay ahead of the airplane.
- Mail your release form before take-off and follow up with your post-mission report. Please include anything that might help pilots with future missions.

Please email me with your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions at [Steve@SteveCraven.net](mailto:Steve@SteveCraven.net). Thanks for all you do.

God bless,  
Steve

## **Wounded Warriors Flying In** (from page 1)

the Lion of Babylon Medal for service to Iraq from the Prime Minister.

Another attraction at this year’s event, which will be from 4:00-9:00 p.m., is an exchange of war stories to be told by veterans of World War II and the Korean War. A select group of retired airmen, sailors, and soldiers will share unforgettable moments from their military service. These and other narratives from Hampton Roads veterans are captured in a new book, *Sacred Glances*, that will be on sale at the event and may also be purchased through Mercy Medical Airlift by calling 757-318-9174.

Following the honors ceremony, the popular Charlie Daniels Band will perform in concert.

To buy tickets (none will be sold at the event) or to learn more about Halos and Heroes, visit the web at [HalosandHeroes.org](http://HalosandHeroes.org) or [AirCompassionforVeterans.org](http://AirCompassionforVeterans.org).

## **AUGUST MISSION REPORT**

**Missions Completed: 163**

**Child: 77**

**Cancer: 59**

**Veteran: 23**

**Total Volunteer Pilots: 1,451**

**New Pilots Added: 4**