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"The shortest distance between home and hope"

## Five-Year-Old Enjoys Flight

In most ways, Jordan C. is like any other small boy. The five-year-old from Saugerties, N.Y., enjoys playing with his Thomas the Tank and toy train. He likes



riding his bike and playing with friends.

But Jordan suffers from an autoimmune disorder that causes severe canker sores. "He has big lesions all over his lips and tongue" which interfere with his eating, says his father, Matt, a sports copy editor for the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. "He's not a great eater anyways."

Initially, the condition was misdiagnosed as pemphigus vulgaris, a blistering disease of the skin and/or mucous membranes.

In March of last year, Jordan saw a specialist at Johns Hopkins

University Hospital who ruled out pemphigus and simply said the boy has "bad mouth sores."

Angel Flight flew father and son from Baltimore back to New York.

"Jordan enjoyed the flight. The pilots were very nice," Matt notes.

Jordan attends kindergarten half a day and is in special education half a day, as well.

Matt and his wife April hope Jordan "will be on his way to good health again," and the couple praises Angel Flight for its "wonderful work."

### Remembering Vanessa ...

*Vanessa Dise of Tangier, Va., an Angel Flight "frequent flier" and beloved friend, died on Jan. 30 at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Md.*

*Dr. Neil Kaye attended the funeral service on Feb. 2, held at her church, Swain Memorial United Methodist. He wrote the following account:*

*"I am one of many Angel Flight pilots who had the privilege of flying Vanessa Dise. She died after a long fight with complications of uncontrolled diabetes. She was 52 years young, and is survived by her husband Larry, daughter and son-in-law Amber and James Lane, five brothers and one sister.*

*"Vanessa was active in her church, a member of the PTA and a Town Councilwoman. Vanessa was first flown by Richard Love ...Angel Flight pilots managed to get her home for Christmas 2005, which she so desperately wanted to celebrate with her family and friends. I think all of us who flew Vanessa will always remember her positive attitude. Vanessa never complained and although the pilot could see her pain and impairments, when asked how she was feeling her answer was always the same: 'I'm doin' purty good.'"*



**Vanessa returning home from a rehab facility on the mainland, pictured here two years ago with husband Larry, two nephews, and Angel Flight pilot Richard Love**