Pilots Honored for Service

Note: Last month we reported that Keith Taylor was Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic Pilot of the Year 2005. This year, two of these awards are being presented. We are proud to announce that the other Mid-Atlantic Pilot of the Year is Cleve Benedict of Lewisburg, West Virginia, who flew 28 missions last year.

He also earned the distinction of being named West Virginia’s Pilot of the Year.

When he’s not flying patients in a Cessna 172 or 206, Benedict is tending to his dairy farm. The devoted Angel Flight pilot served in the U.S. House of Representatives and was the state Commissioner of Agriculture.

Annual AFMA Banquet Rescheduled for Fall

The annual Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic banquet will be held in October this year and in future years. The scheduling change is due to the Angel Flight America Gala Tribute banquet, designated to become an annual event, being planned for May 15.

We regard our regional AFMA banquet as a most important occasion, and look forward to your company this fall.

We’ll keep you informed of plans as they unfold and hope the change in timing will allow more of you to come and share an evening of great food, inspiration, and celebration of your wonderful service.

Pilot Goes Second Mile For Transplant Patient

Sherry Lea J., of Woodlawn, Va., needed to be in Charlottesville for a lung transplant. She was scheduled to fly with Peter Eades, an Angel Flight pilot from Charlottesville. But the designated airport was closed for renovations.

“No other pilots would take the flight because of fog,” Sherry writes in a thank you letter to Angel Flight dated March 28.

Eades met her at New River Valley Airport and flew her to Charlottesville.

But “there was no ambulance or taxi from Albemarle Airport. Mr. Eades, without missing a beat, put my sister and me in his private vehicle, took me to UVA, wheeled me into Admissions, and did not leave until I was situated in my room and ready to wait for transplant preparations.

“In addition, he called back to see if I made it through the surgery AND came to visit me once I came off the respirator.

“Mr. Eades went over and above the call of duty.”

Award-Winning Pilots

2005

States

Delaware..........Neil Kaye
Ohio……………….Richard Byrne
Maryland…………Michael Jones
Virginia………….Mark Farris and Warren Schoening
North Carolina….Keith Taylor
Michigan..........Dick Lawrence
Tennessee..........Joe Esteban
West Virginia…..Cleveland Benedict
Kentucky..........Franklin Gulleidge
Pennsylvania……..David Wylie

Mid-Atlantic Region

Cleve Benedict
Keith Taylor