

## Pilots Honored at Harvest Banquet

“Self-sacrifice is the real miracle,” wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson, “out of which all the reported miracles grow.”

There was no doubt in the minds of those present at the Oct. 21 banquet “Under the



**Keith Taylor receives award from Missions Director MJ Sablan and Executive Director Steve Patterson.**

Harvest Moon” in Virginia Beach that miracles were in their midst—our pilots who give so much of themselves to make a difference in the lives of others.

A special part of the evening was presentation of awards to those pilots in attendance. These included Keith Taylor of North Carolina, who also won the Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic Pilot of the Year as well as his state’s “Finest Pilot” honor; David Wylie of Pennsylvania; Michael Jones of Maryland; and Dick Lawrence of Michigan.



**Jones’ exemplary service is noted.**

The event’s emcee, pilot Mark Farris, was also recognized as Virginia’s Finest Pilot. A new award was created this year for Outstanding Community Representative 2006.

This went to Rich Badaracco, an Angel Flight pilot, community rep, and North Carolina



**Gay Catania, VP of programs, gives Badaracco his award.**

board member. The keynote speaker was U.S. Congresswoman Thelma Drake, who commended Angel Flight for its extraordinary service and reported on the Volunteer Pilot Organization Protection Act of 2006 which, under her sponsorship, passed the House.

The bill is now in the Senate (S.929).

The program also featured a moving testimonial from Leanne and Cristina P., Angel Flight patients and “frequent fliers,” who spoke of their medical and financial difficulties, and the blessings of traveling with Angel Flight.

Other weekend events included a tour of the Mid-Atlantic offices and a viewing of the refurbished Bonanza aircraft. Joint board meetings and training for community reps were held in the afternoon.

Plans are already underway for next year’s banquet, which promises to be a “swinging” good time.

(More news on page two)



**Wylie came from Pennsylvania to claim his prize.**



**Lawrence is Michigan’s Finest Pilot.**



**Farris steps down from the podium as emcee to receive his pilot award.**

## Boyer Earns Top NAA Honor Leaves "Imprints on Aviation"



Elder Statesman Award recognizes Boyer's contributions to aviation



Boyer praises Angel Flight pilots for service

In recent years, Ed Boyer's pioneering contributions to the world of charitable medical air transportation have gained increasing recognition.

This past June, for example, he won the Spirit of Service award from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

In 2005 he was given the Virginia Department of Aviation's Lifetime Achievement Award. The mayor of Virginia Beach, Meyera Oberndorf, declared an "Ed Boyer Day" on August 17, 2005, and Stihl, a large manufacturing company, presented him with a "Hometown Hero" award the same year.

On Nov. 6, Boyer was one of seven recipients presented the distin-

guished Elder Statesman of Aviation Award from the National Aeronautic Association.

"He was chosen for his more than 30 years' devotion to developing a comprehensive charitable air transportation system in America," according to the award announcement.

"Imprints on Aviation" was the name of the awards banquet, held at the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, Va. The roll call of notable figures in aviation included Richard Rutan, John Miller, the International Space Station Expedition 10 Crew, and many others.

Angel Flight was recognized, as well, for its response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, earning a "Diploma for Outstanding Airmanship."

*Dear Angel Flight,*

*Thanks for arranging an Angel Flight to transport my son, Samson, and us to Cincinnati. Your dedicated help and the generosity of the mission pilot allowed my son to get to the hospital for a transplant procedure.*

*Due to the nature of the procedure, we were not able to determine the date/time the Angel Flight service was needed, but the way Angel Flight handled the situation gave us peace of mind knowing that someone would be around when we got the call.*

*We want to express our heartfelt appreciation for what Angel Flight and the mission pilot have done for us and Samson. You all are making a difference. —Samson's Family*

## Community Rep Forum



## CRs Sought in Wake Of Grant Awards

With the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently awarding "Mini" Compassion Capital Fund grants for rural outreach in Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. Community Reps are needed as never before!

Each state received \$50,000 from the DHHS Administration for Children and Families. One hundred percent of federal funds will be spent on such activities as media relations, board and community rep training, and other capacity-building operations.

### How You Can Help

- Urge other AF pilots to become CRs. But remember—one doesn't have to be a pilot to be a community rep. Training sessions will be held in Tennessee and Virginia in February, and in Pennsylvania at the end of March. Another may be offered in North Carolina before April 1.
- Find events in your locale that will reach rural populations.
- Introduce rural hospitals to Angel Flight and ask for speaking opportunities.
- Recruit pilots in these states. Locate events likely to be attended by pilots in your area.
- Deliver PSAs to all TV stations in your area and get a broadcast commitment.
- **Notify Gay Marie Catania, vice president of programs, of any event you will be participating in: 757-271-2294; cell: 757-348-2067. She can assist!**