

Announcing Finest Pilots 2006

Pilot awards for 2006 have been announced, and the Angel Flight family joins together in offering hearty congratulations to all those selected for extraordinary service.



Kentucky's Frank Gullidge

is Mid-Atlantic Pilot of the Year and Kentucky's Finest Pilot. "I was shocked," he said upon receiving news of the awards. Gullidge says he averages two patient missions a month and sometimes more.

A resident of Brandenburg, a town 50 miles from Louisville, Frank was Kentucky's top pilot last year, too. He flies a Piper PA-28 Warrior and says that flying for Angel Flight is a way to give back. "Life has been good to me and I wish to repay."

His wife, Gail, enthusiastically supports his volunteer service.

Gullidge was a helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps for 20 years, serving in Vietnam and at other overseas locations. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and 34 Air Medals. After retiring in 1978 with the rank of major, he became vice president of a Louisville bank as well as a civilian flight instructor. Today Gullidge continues to teach private pilots at Addington Field near his home.

Quoted in an article in the August/September 2006 *AutoPilot*, Gullidge encourages others to sign up with Angel Flight. "Even if you can only do three or four flights per year, do it."

Others earning their state's recognition as "Finest

Pilot" are as follows:

VIRGINIA.....Joe Federico
MARYLAND.....Don Benedict
DELAWARE.....Brett Lunger
WEST VIRGINIA..... Cleve Benedict
PENNSYLVANIA.....David Wylie
OHIO..... Jim Kroupa
TENNESSEE.....Steve Brumit
MICHIGAN.....Dick Lawrence
NORTH CAROLINA.....Jim Brady



This special, one-time only hard-copy issue of *Angel Flyer* is being mailed to you in case you haven't seen it on our website under "News." For the first three years, *Angel Flyer* was a single-page, monthly newsletter. Now we have switched to a two-page, bimonthly spread to give you more news and photos. *Angel Flyer* is published electronically, so **be sure to check the website** noted above to keep up with the great stories that are all about YOU and the patients you serve.

Also included is the **new Community Rep** column along with notices of important events such as the **Mar. 10 Angel Flight Walk/Run**.



WHEN PILOT BOB OGLESBY ASKED, “Who is going to be my copilot?” six-year-old Savannah’s face lit up in a smile and, with a nod from Mom, she took the front seat. Savannah traveled to see her physician for her one-year check-up following a second liver transplant.

She suffers from the genetic disorder **citrullinemia** which, because of a missing enzyme, causes the buildup of nitrogen and the formation of ammonia in the blood.

Her mother, Renee, said Mr. Oglesby “made our trip so enjoyable.”

She says she and Savannah have taken about 10 Angel Flights in 13 months’ time.

Community Forum

Top CRs Named for 2006



John and Lois: still going strong after 39 years of marriage

Rev. John Hoffmann of Springfield, Va., has been chosen as the **2006 Community Rep of the Year** for Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic and named the top CR for Virginia.

“He is by far the most active rep in Virginia and the entire 10-state region, and has participated in numerous types of events,” says Gay Catania, vice president of support services for Angel Flight. Hoffmann is “the ‘go to’ guy for every event in Northern Virginia,” she says. John is also the representative in several states for VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).

He has flown patient missions for Mercy Medical Airlift since 1997 and has been married for 39 years to his wife, Lois.

He served for 36 years in the U.S. Army and Army reserves, both as an infantry officer and as a chaplain. He was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and received an honorable discharge so he could attend Moody Bible Institute.

John’s humanitarian service extended to Africa as he flew medical missions in Tanzania and conducted assessment work of refugee camps in Kenya and Uganda. He worked for the State Department to give aid for the Republic of Turkmenistan, and assisted in the resettlement of Kurds in Northern Iraq.

When commended for his extraordinary career, John said, “I was just doing my job allowing God to work in and through my life.”

The other Outstanding Community Reps for 2006 are:

- MARYLAND.....John Pilkins**
- MICHIGAN.....Randy and Naomi St. Julian**
- NORTH CAROLINA.....Phil Kelley**
Honorable Mention
Karl Klaiber
Lew Nelson
- OHIO.....Hank Olden**
- PENNSYLVANIA..... Kathryn Ridgeway**
- TENNESSEE.....Dick Bailey**

Calling Runners, Walkers For Angel Flight 5K Race



Dust off your running shoes and get in shape for the **9th Annual Angel Flight Run/Walk**, set for **March 10** at the 24th Street Park, Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

Participants must be registered and at the start line by 8:45 a.m.; the race starts at 9:00.

Registration fees are \$22 or \$25 if paid after Feb. 1 or on the day of the race.

To register online, go to www.AngelFlightRun.org or www.active.com. Besides trophies and medals for winners, there will also be special pilot drawings, with prizes including a transceiver and a gift certificate from an exclusive Virginia Beach jeweler, among others. Contact **MJ Sablan** to buy tickets: **757-318-7149**. Email: mj@angel-flight.org.

The race is sponsored by the Tidewater Striders, Road Runners Club of America, TI Associates, Inc., Talbert & Bright, Inc., Long Jewelers, Chick Fil-A, Marriott and Sheraton Oceanfront, and other businesses.

Call **Sanovia Baxter** for details: **757-318-9174**, ext 214, or call **Tidewater Striders: 757-627-7223**.