

Pilot Safety, Volunteerism Rewarded



Richard Love (2nd from left) receives award for Angel Flight



Dr. Neil Kaye (center) is honored for his improvements on Tangier

The Old Dominion is famous for producing great leaders, from U.S. presidents to sports figures to authors—to volunteers, like Angel Flight pilots. Angel Flight was recently recognized for the safety record of its Virginia volunteer pilots and for the outstanding humanitarian service of Dr. Neil S. Kaye of Tangier.

At an awards luncheon held on June 14 at the Sheraton Park South Hotel in Richmond, Angel Flight of Virginia board member and pilot Richard Love received a beautiful glass plaque for aviation safety on behalf of the air charity. The awards program was sponsored by the Virginia Board of Transportation Safety. Angel Flight, which has a 100 percent safety record, was one of several groups and individuals receiving a 2007 Governor's Transportation Safety Award.

Dr. Neil Kaye was recognized on April 12 for his volunteer work as a physician, Angel Flight pilot, and "mentor to children and beautifier of Tangier." He was one of 12 individuals and organizations receiving a 2007 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award. The honors were presented at a

luncheon ceremony held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in Richmond in connection with the Virginia Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service.

Neil, a psychiatrist, and his wife Susan, a pathologist, have dual residences in Delaware and Tangier. They often give free medical care to their neighbors on the remote Chesapeake Bay island, and Neil, as a pilot, provides free transportation in his helicopter for patients who need treatment on the mainland.

For more information on this couple's remarkable efforts to improve their community, read the article in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* posted at http://www.timesdispatch.com/cva/ric/entertainment_living.apx-content-articles-RTD-2007-06-25-0002.html.



Don't miss it!
October 6, 2007
Virginia Beach
Airport
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Halos and Heroes Hangar Celebration To Honor Pilots, Veterans



The P51 makes a low pass over the Va. Beach airport runway.

The Boogie Woogie Boys from Company B along with an extraordinary collection of vintage warplanes are but a few of the highlights pilots, friends, families and supporters can expect on October 6 at the Virginia Beach Airport and Museum.

Replacing the traditional banquet, a hangar celebration is planned from 2:00-9:00 p.m. and will include a USO show featuring the new release “She’s an Army of One” along with swing music from the Forties provided by the Hampton Roads Metro Band.

The privately-owned airport in the rural Pungo area of Virginia Beach holds one of the nation’s largest collections of vintage planes.

The climax of the event will be the arrival of “Heroes” in planes flown by “Halos.” “Wounded Warriors” from Iraq and Afghanistan will be flown in from Walter Reed Army Medical Center by participating Angel Flight pilots. From 6:00-7:00 p.m., the veterans will share the compelling stories of their experiences in the war against terror.

There will be plenty of food, including Virginia and North Carolina barbecue with all the “fixins.”

All tickets will be limited and pre-sold. There are a total of 1,350 available, with 700 tickets available at the active military rate of \$25 per ticket donation and 650 available at \$45 per ticket donation.

Reserved tables for eight are also offered for a \$750 donation. Preferred table placements will be on a first-pay, best-placement basis.

The fundraiser will benefit Air Compassion for Veterans, a program established last November through a



At Halos and Heroes, visitors will be able to get “up close and personal” with warbirds like this Mustang.

private grant that offers free air transportation to veterans of the Iraq and Afghan conflicts and utilizes Angel Flights, air ambulance flights, and commercial airline tickets to aid in the healing of heroes.

For more information on the program, visit www.AirCompassionforVeterans.org.

To buy tickets, reserve a table, or sign up to fly a Wounded Warrior, contact Heidi Greer at 757-217-2289, or email her at hgreer@angel-flight.org.

PATIENT SPOTLIGHT



Karen is pictured with husband Billy, pilot Mike Jones (left) and co-pilot Jim Abbott. (Courtesy of Mike Jones.)

Karen's upbeat spirit is powerful medicine against the disease she has been fighting since she was 17. The 29-year-old wife and mother from Raleigh, N.C., received experimental treatment for thyroid cancer at the Ohio State University Medical Center every month in the year 2005. She’s taken 18 flights with Airlift Hope of North Carolina (formerly Angel Flight) and says the free transportation has been “such a blessing. Airline tickets would have been a huge cost.”

While the first trial was effective for a time, a new tumor appeared and as a result, she no longer qualified for the program. But she will soon begin a new clinical trial at the University of Kentucky. Her husband Billy, a police officer, always accompanies her on flights, and her three-year-old son, Tyler, stays with his grandparents. ♦