

## Outstanding Pilots Named for 2007

### "Gathering of Eagles" Weekend Will Honor Recipients

Angel Flight is proud to announce the Pilots of the Year for 2007, volunteers who "make it a point to fly as many missions as possible to help as many people as they can," according to missions director MJ Sablan. Congratulations, pilots! Thank you for the world of good you do.

#### ANGEL FLIGHT PILOTS OF THE YEAR

##### Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic

*Frank Gullede*

##### Virginia

*Joe Federico*

##### Maryland

*Doug Robinson*

##### West Virginia

*Cleve Benedict*

##### Delaware

*Brett Lunger*

##### Washington, DC

*Huston Simmons*

##### Michigan

*Dick Lawrence*

##### Ohio

*Charlie Poll*

##### Pennsylvania

*David Wylie*

##### Kentucky

*Frank Gullede*

#### AIRLIFT HOPE PILOTS OF THE YEAR

##### North Carolina

*Jim Brady*

##### Tennessee

*Dave Pride*



You Are Invited To  
A GATHERING OF  
EAGLES WEEKEND—  
APRIL 18-20

#### Schedule of Events

- Pilot Fly-In (Friday afternoon/Saturday morning)
- AFMA Open House (Sat., 10:00 a.m.)
- Pilot Briefing/Meeting (Sat., 12:30 p.m.—lunch included)
- Awards Dinner (Reception, Dinner, Sat., 6:00/7:00 p.m.—Virginia Beach Resort Hotel. Business attire)
- Pilot Fly-Out (Sunday)

*For dinner tickets (\$50 each) and room reservations at Virginia Beach Resort Hotel, contact MJ Sablan, 757-318-7149; mj@angel-flight.org.*

Note: Rooms are limited, so be sure to reserve yours by the March 1 deadline.

# Pilot's Website Improves Mission Coordination



**Calugar recently visited Angel Flight headquarters to help with the Air Compassion America program of mission coordination.**

**R**on Calugar, a pilot from Midlothian, Virginia, can't seem to do enough to help the cause of Angel Flight. Not only has he flown over 30 patient missions since joining last March, he also developed "abufs.com," a website for pilots which he continues to maintain and improve.

Missions coordination has for years been done electronically from the Virginia Beach headquarters, but the existing system was inefficient and cumbersome. Ron's website provides all the current mission acceptance functionality plus a battery of new features that require no additional input from the Angel Flight staff. This saves many hundreds of hours each year, cutting the mission entry work in half.

Other innovations include a pilot profiling feature that matches pilot requirements of aircraft, distance, etc., with the requirements of a particular mission. Links are also provided to weather, fuel pricing and flight planning.

Ron says many pilots emailed messages of encouragement along with suggestions, corrections

and instructions, most of which he incorporated into the site.

A retired minister and investor, Ron defines love as "expending yourself on behalf of others without expecting or requiring anything in return." He says his wife Mary is "completely supportive" of his volunteer service, despite the many hours and absences. "I could not have done this without her," he says.



**Doris needed a stretcher for her ride back home to South Carolina following a double knee and double hip replacement. Ron (rear, center) flew the mission, modifying his Bonanza to accommodate the stretcher. Corrine, Doris' friend (front, left) traveled with her.**

## Community Rep Forum

### Training Scheduled for Two States

**A**ngel Flight's all-important Community Representative program is back on track, with training set for Saturday, Feb. 9, at Tyson's Corner in McLean, Virginia. Ten individuals are registered, according to Volunteer Coordinator Mary Ellen Miles. Plans are underway to offer another training session for Airlift Hope in Raleigh, North Carolina. To learn more, call Mary Ellen at 757-318-9174, X 214; email is [maryellen@mercymedicalairlift.org](mailto:maryellen@mercymedicalairlift.org).

The *Angel Flyer* is the electronic newsletter for pilots in the Mid-Atlantic region and is published bimonthly on the website under "News" at [www.AngelFlightMidAtlantic.org](http://www.AngelFlightMidAtlantic.org). AFMA headquarters are at 4620 Haygood Road, Suite 1, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. Editor: Suzanne Rhodes. Phone: 757-271-2299. Email: [Suzanne@MercyMedicalAirlift.org](mailto:Suzanne@MercyMedicalAirlift.org)