

Angel Flight Is 'A Prayer Answered'

Randy S. is a cheerful man whose faith keeps him strong despite his diagnosis of diffuse choroidal melanoma, or melanoma cancer of the eye.

The Virginia Beach, Va., resident was diagnosed in September 2003 and takes Angel Flights to a retina specialist at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia.

"I'm fighting it," says the 51-year-old father, husband, and deacon of Virginia Beach Pentecostal church. He has two married daughters, Tabitha and Angelina, and a wife, Catherine.

"The disease is so rare, no one knows about it. The normal life expectancy is five years."

Initially, Randy's condition was misdiagnosed. He went to another doctor. "She said, 'You have



Randy is fighting deadly melanoma

cancer," and referred him to a specialist at Wills.

Randy drove to Philadelphia, a trip of nearly 300 miles. "They took my eye out and sewed a metal plate with radiation seeds to my eyeball," then returned the eye to the socket.

He says the procedure was extremely painful and required a five-

day hospital stay. Afterward, they removed the plate and stitches, covered the eye, and sent Randy home.

"I had to drive home. I couldn't half see."

For the appointments that followed, Randy rode a bus. Then one day he was at the pharmacy getting medication and met someone who told him about Angel Flight.

"It was like a prayer was answered," he said.

Randy, who is legally blind and no longer able to work, has flown three times with Mid-Atlantic volunteer pilots and will be traveling to Philadelphia again soon for continued treatment.

"I can't put it into words how much I appreciate Angel Flight," he said.

Boyer Receives Award for Homeland Security Program



Ed Boyer, past chairman of Angel Flight America (AFA), received a distinguished "Spirit of Service" award for his role in developing the Homeland Security Emergency Air Transportation System (HSEATS).

He was honored during a special ceremony at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service, held in Seattle, Washington, June 18-20.

The awards are given annually by AmericaCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to recognize outstanding service by their members and alumni.

Last month, he was honored for his role as board chairman at the Angel Flight America Tribute Banquet in Washington, D.C.,

Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic is a member of AFA.