

Transplant Trip 'Worked Out Perfectly'



Clarence poses with his wife, Jackolyn, in this 2001 photograph.

Medical Center where Clarence, who suffers from an incurable disease known as idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, was scheduled to go for surgery.

The disease involves scarring of the lungs and gradual replacement of the air sacs with fibrotic tissue.

"I called Angel Flight," Clarence said. "I'd made prior arrangements." The retired teacher is 72 and lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

"I was told the plane would be at Carlisle airport in a half hour. I was shaking and sweating. I'd previously packed. I gathered my things and Rodney took me the airport. Everything was dark.

"I went to the last hangar and there was the plane with the pilot checking things out. He turned the landing lights on and fired up. Fifteen minutes later we were in the air."

Pilot David Jones, also from Carlisle, said he got the call for the transplant flight at 11:45. A civil engineer who plans and designs airports,

Clarence and his son Rodney were watching TV when the call came. It was around 11 p.m., on Thursday, September 6.

"We have a lung for you."

The caller was the transplant coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh

Jones uses one of his company's airplanes, a Cessna 206, for Angel Flight missions.

"We had an absolutely wonderful trip. Clarence was taken aback that someone would go out in the middle of the night to fly him to get the help he needed. He was incredibly appreciative."

Clarence said the 40-minute trip to Pittsburgh was "one of the nicest flights" he'd ever had. "It was a clear night. There was no turbulence. It was like sitting in the living room." By automobile, the trip would have taken three hours.

On arrival, a car from the hospital was waiting at the airport. "At around 1:00 or 2:00 a.m., I was in the prep room and in the operating room around 4:00 a.m. The next thing I remember, it was Saturday."

Clarence said that after receiving his new right lung, he didn't have to be on oxygen at all.

Before that, he had required 8 liters of oxygen, 24 hours a day. "It was quite an experience in terms of the difference it made. Doctors told me I can do anything I want except run a marathon."

Besides his teaching career, Clarence also worked as a researcher with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and later took a job with the United States Postal Service.



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Boyer Named as One of Top 10 Americans

What do Barbara Walters, Gladys Knight, Caroline Kennedy, and Angel Flight's Ed Boyer have in common?

The answer is that these celebrities and others are gathering at the New York City Public Library on December 3 for the annual presentation of AARP Magazine's Inspire Awards ceremony, with Walters presiding.

Boyer, CEO and President of Mercy Medical Airlift, and a founder of Angel Flight, was chosen as



Ed Boyer looks good in his "makeover" as performed by Heather, a make-up artist from Washington, D.C., hired by AARP to get the "inspired go-getter" ready for a photo shoot at Landmark Aviation in Norfolk, Va.

one of 10 "inspired go-getters" in America who is improving our world in myriad ways," according to AARP Magazine. Boyer

has received growing recognition for his substantial role in developing the national system of charitable medical air transportation.

His other awards include the National Aeronautic Association's Elder Statesman Award (2006), the Corporation for National and Community Service's Spirit of Service Award (2006), and the Virginia Department of Aviation's Lifetime Achievement Award (2005).

On being notified of the award, Boyer said, "I am excited to have the opportunity to share with more senior citizens that charitable medical air transportation help is available when there is a need. A lack of resources to travel for specialized medical care shouldn't stand in the way of medical assistance for quality of life." ♦

AFMA Mission Report (October 2007)

Missions Coordinated..... 375
Missions Completed..... 176
Total Volunteer Pilots..... 1,553

Pilots Honored at Halos and Heroes



Pilots were in the spotlight at Halos and Heroes, the October 6 hangar celebration held at the Virginia Beach airport. The top Angel Flight pilots in their states received awards during a special honors ceremony, as pictured above. Left to right are Jim Kroupa (Ohio), Jim Brady (North Carolina), and David Wylie (Pennsylvania).

Other volunteer pilots flew wounded veterans from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in their private plans, as shown above (right). Plans are already underway for Halos and Heroes '08, with the date set for October 4.

This year's event was a fundraiser for Air Compassion for Veterans, a program that provides free air transportation for troops, veterans and families affected by deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan. ♦

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