

## Spotlight on an Angel Passenger Chance N.

by Cheri Cimmarrusti, Associate Executive Director

Chance N. was born on March 1, 2012 in Las Vegas, NV. On April 13, 2015, he was diagnosed with stage IV liver cancer. He was three years old. His treatment would require long hospital stays during his chemotherapy and other procedures. His grandparents, Melisa and Ray, are his primary caregivers and oversee his medical care. Melisa is herself an 18-year survivor of cancer, and wanted to make sure that Chance had somebody by his side during all of his treatments.

Late in 2015, Chance's cancer had advanced despite chemotherapy. He was taken to UCLA Medical Center by air ambulance where he was evaluated for a liver transplant. On November 28, Chance received his liver transplant and began the long journey to recovery.

Once home, Melissa and Ray were faced with the need to get him to repeated and regular follow-up appointments. The family car was reliable enough to get around town, but not reliable enough

*Continued on page 3...*



So. CA Wing Command Pilot John Neustadt flew five-year-old Chance N. and his grandmother from Santa Monica, CA to Las Vegas, NV after Chance's follow-up liver transplant appointment.



L to R: So. CA Wing Command Pilot Pete Bernardin, passengers Scott M. and his service dog Shatzi flying from Ontario, CA to San Martin, CA. to a training program offered free through the non-profit Operation Freedom Paws.

## AFW Joins Forces with Operation Freedom Paws

AFW is pleased to partner with the non-profit Operation Freedom Paws, an organization that matches dogs to a specific client's physical and psychological needs including traumatic stress syndrome that affects many military personnel like AFW passenger Scott M. They teach individuals to train their own dog, and certify them together as a service dog team. There is no charge, just a commitment to complete the 48-week training program. Most of the dogs come from rescue shelters and are carefully evaluated. Each is then matched to a specific client's physical and psychological needs. This special canine-human relationship helps patients get

back out in their communities and begin to view their future with renewed hope. Pictured left is AFW's first Operation Freedom Paws mission.





## ASK JOSH

by Josh Olson, Executive Director

*"How are things going? How'd things end up last year?"*

– Kevin Kaufman

Angel Flight West has always focused on one patient, one mission at a time. This focus originated with an incredible group of volunteer pilots who created the organization 35 years ago, and still drives us today. We continue to reach and serve more patients as we strive to eliminate transportation as a barrier to health care. Over the past 10 years, we've flown between 3600 - 4,400 missions and served 1,500 passengers per year. Over the past 18 months we've begun a concerted effort to scale our services with the "Ascent to 8,000" initiative that you've heard me refer to.

Since launching our Ascent to 8,000, we've learned a lot about the need for our services, our capabilities in meeting those needs, and opportunities for increasing our effectiveness towards our mission in the past year. Thank you for bearing with us as we quickly corrected what didn't work, and implemented some new processes and strategies. We're excited about our expanded Earth Angel services to better meet the passenger need for curb-to-curb service. We're thrilled with the increase of new volunteer pilots, online orientation process, SMS messaging service for available missions, and so much more. Of course, all of these efforts focus on our passengers and delivering them to health and hope.



Welcome to **incoming WA Wing Leader Randy Scott**, and a grateful thank you to **outgoing WA Wing Leader Melinda Denton** for her many years of service to AFW.

*Ava is a doll!! Her sweet little voice excitedly shouting "I'm flying, I'm flying" still rings in my ears and makes me smile.*

– Command Pilot Christopher Isler

Along with growth and new initiatives come plenty of challenges. To keep up with our expansion and new services, we need our amazing volunteers more than ever. Please consider becoming newly or further involved in each or any of the following areas:

1. Fly more flights. Drive more drives. This is the motor of our organization.
2. Volunteer as a boots-on-the-ground volunteer in your local Wing.
3. Spread the word to your friends, families, and networks. We're a too-well-kept secret, and we need more help to make us visible to those who can use our services!
4. Donate and/or fundraise. Facebook makes it super easy to fundraise on our behalf. And consider naming AFW in your will or trust.

Please let me know if you're interested in becoming more involved in our mission. Thank you in advance for your continued support and help! You're amazing. Now flex those Angel wings!



**Passenger six-month-old Grayson W.** flying with family home to Gillette, WY by **CO Wing Command Pilot William Greager** after a 75-day hospital stay in Denver, CO. Grayson is being treated for esophageal atresia, a condition where the top part of the esophagus doesn't connect with the lowest part. Grayson's family lives on a one parent income with high medical costs for his care.



## In the Hangar

### Margaux Helvey, Interim Development Director

AFW welcomes Margaux Helvey as Interim Development Director. Margaux came on board in December

2016 to help steer AFW in reaching its Ascent to 8,000 initiative. Margaux’s unique dual degrees in business (MBA) and social work (MSW) from USC make her a perfect fit for her role in keeping AFW on a strong strategic path to the overall growth of the organization. Margaux’s aspiration has always been to address social issues through business principles, and she has worked with a number of nonprofits across L.A. in growing revenues and building

corporate partnerships. Margaux is particularly impressed with AFW’s model of leveraging volunteer and in-kind resources to multiply the impact of each dollar donated. In her work with AFW, she will be helping to increase our visibility, grow our donor base, and build a sustainable business model.

Margaux is not new to aviation. Her grandfather opened, and her father ran, Addison Airport in Dallas, one of the largest private airports in the nation. [See photo: young Margaux next to her dad in front of her family's red Piper Pacer.] She says that although she didn’t think it was very glamorous to fly in small planes as a kid (no onboard bathrooms!), she now has a greater appreciation for the world of private aviation. She enjoys connecting with people who are passionate about flying while also helping others, and says, “My grandfather would have been excited about AFW.”

So. CA Wing Command Pilot Steve Danz (pictured second from left) will be rotating off the board, AFW gives a big **THANK YOU** to Steve for his 10 years of board service!

Photo L to R: No. CA Wing Command Pilot Bill John, So. CA Wing Command Pilot and Board Chair Steve Danz, passenger George B. with friend, and Mission Assistant Carlos Tobar. Steve flew 1st of a 3-leg mission from San Diego to Bakersfield, Bill flew to Stockton, and the final leg to Redding, CA was flown by NV Wing Command Pilot Tom Porta.



## Spotlight on an Angel

### Passenger Chance N....continued from page 1

to make the drive from Las Vegas to Los Angeles. Fortunately, his social worker knew about Angel Flight West and she requested their first flight. After a couple of false starts, Melissa, Ray and Chance were on their first mission in May 2016. Angel Flight West turned their five to seven-hour one-way drive with a sick child into a two-hour or less flight! Melisa says that without Angel Flight West they truly would not be able to make it to their appointments that are so crucial to Chance’s health. Routine testing of Chance’s new

liver function and rejection monitoring are critical to his long-term prognosis.

Three-year-old Chance loves to fly on the Angel Flight planes, and especially when his pilots allow him to “fly” the plane! What a treat for this little boy who has already experienced more heartache than most of us do in a lifetime!

AFW gratefully acknowledges our Pilots of the Year 2016, and wishes to thank **all** of our pilot volunteers for their generous support of our mission. We could not do it without you!

# PILOTS OF THE YEAR 2016

**AZ** Dennis Phelan • Pilot of the Year ~ 56\*  
Patrick McClure • Wingman ~ 16  
Brian Taraci • Frequent Flier ~ 12

**CO** Wesley Cooper • Pilot of the Year ~ 6  
Phillip Rosnik • Wingman ~ 6  
Michael Samp • Frequent Flier ~ 5

**HI** David Sacco • Pilot of the Year ~ 4  
Claudio Friederich • Wingman ~ 2  
Jeremy Leonard • Frequent Flier ~ 2

**ID** Rick Holloway • Pilot of the Year ~ 29  
John Katseanes • Wingman ~ 11  
Steve Laflin • Frequent Flier ~ 11

**MT** William Bayne • Pilot of the Year ~ 31  
Reginald Goodwin • Wingman ~ 19  
Eric Torgerson • Frequent Flier ~ 7

**NM** Arthur Tangen • Pilot of the Year ~ 8  
Perry Null • Wingman ~ 5  
Stephen Rehnberg • Frequent Flier ~ 4

**NV** Michael Evans • Pilot of the Year ~ 52  
Shawn Linch • Wingman ~ 8  
Eliot Alper • Frequent Flier ~ 7  
William Ramos • Frequent Flier ~ 7

**N. CA** Christopher Bennett • Pilot of the Year ~ 57  
W John Spencer • Wingman ~ 32  
Pete Bulthuis • Frequent Flier ~ 27

**OR** Tom Tormey • Pilot of the Year ~ 61  
Anthony Wiltse • Wingman ~ 22  
Ethan Levi • Frequent Flier ~ 15

**S. CA** Stephen Danz • Pilot of the Year ~ 78  
Peter Bernardin • Wingman ~ 46  
Jim Mallen • Frequent Flier ~ 39

**UT** Lynn Purcell • Pilot of the Year ~ 19  
Bill McVay • Wingman ~ 17  
Mark Miller • Frequent Flier ~ 13

**WA** Robert Schaper • Pilot of the Year ~ 109  
Tony Enriquez • Wingman ~ 83  
John Jewett • Frequent Flier ~ 53

**WY** Matthew Young • Pilot of the Year ~ 13  
John Larsen • Wingman ~ 6  
Jack Schulte • Frequent Flier ~ 2

*\*Note: Numbers after names are the number of flights flown by that pilot.*

To view all AFW Command Pilots who have flown missions in the last 90 days click on or go to:  
<http://tinyurl.com/mwsv2s7>



**WA Wing Command Pilot Trevor Moody's** plane about to be loaded with blood donations leaving from Eastsound, WA to Seattle, WA. The destination is **Bloodworks NW Blood Center**, a unique, hybrid provider of health care services for the community that collects, tests and distributes essential, lifesaving blood to nearly 90 hospitals in the Pacific Northwest. This is just another example of the many health related missions that AFW flies.

## First Flight

### Aria Davenport, So. CA Wing Command Pilot

So. CA Wing Command Pilot Aria Davenport got the flying bug sitting in the back seat while accompanying his grandfather on his flying lessons. On his 16th birthday, his grandfather told him that this time Aria would be in the front seat taking the lesson, and he hasn't stopped flying since.

When Aria graduated from Kent State's Professional Pilot Program in 2011, he knew he wanted to be a corporate, not commercial, pilot. One of the reasons is that he likes to get to know his passengers. So, when he was introduced to AFW and flew as Mission Assistant on his first mission on Sept. 2016 with So. CA Command Pilot Steve Danz, he was hooked.

Aria came to AFW through his uncle, who knew past AFW Executive Director Jim Weaver. Jim put Aria in touch with Steve Danz and Aria has flown as Steve's Mission Assistant many times. Remarking on a few camp missions he's flown, Aria says, "It breaks my heart to see these kids with cancer. When I was young, a lot of pilots inspired me and it feels good to be able to inspire these kids."

Aria's first "official" mission as So. CA Wing Command Pilot was on February 16th for Jocelyn M. from Santa Maria, CA to Santa Monica. What was



**Aria Davenport** flying his first mission as **So. CA Command Pilot** for **passenger Jocelyn M.** and daughter from Santa Maria, CA to Santa Monica for Jocelyn's cardiology tests at UCLA. His plane is on loan from his employer, attorney Nicholas Rowley, of Trial Lawyers for Justice.

special about this flight was that the plane that Aria flew is owned by attorney and author Nick Rowley of *Trial by Human* and sponsored by his firm Carpenter, Zuckerman, and Rowley, and Trial Lawyers for Justice. Aria has been the law firm's pilot since last year. For periods of time, their plane can sit unused, so Aria approached Nick with the idea of using it to fly AFW missions. Nick graciously responded, "Absolutely, any time you need the plane." AFW is very grateful to them both for their generosity and welcome Aria aboard!

## UT Wing's Annual Santa Flight



On December 8, 2016, 22 AFW UT Wing volunteer pilots flew to Hurricane, UT to deliver toys, school supplies and warm clothing to 600+ children at Hurricane Elementary School on their annual Santa Flight. Working with members of their local communities and UT Title One Schools, Santa Flight coordinators UT Wing Leader Steve Bollinger; former UT Wing Leader Phil Titus; AFW Outreach Coordinator Joanne Brattain; pilot briefer and Santa Tim Miller, and Scout leaders have been organizing and flying these yearly missions since 2000.

Photos: Mr. and Mrs. Santa arriving by helicopter, kids at thank-you assembly, and Steve Bollinger giving the school principal an additional donation of \$8,000.

## Air to Air

- Our condolences to the Hammoudah family for the loss of their son Deeb.
- **glassybaby**, a private Seattle company of handmade glass votive candle holders, donates a percentage of profits to charities that help cancer patients. AFW is one of these fortunate charities. Go to website at <http://glassybaby.com/power-of-giving>
- **Phillips 66®** has agreed to provide AFW pilots a \$1-per-gallon avgas rebate. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/ha2gxyv>
- The aviation-focused company **Scheyden** offers a 50% discount to AFW members on their eyewear products. Use the promo code ANGEL on checkout at <http://scheyden.com/>
- **ZuluLog**, a professional, cloud-based online pilot logbook system, is offering 10% discount to all AFW members and a donation back to AFW with every purchase! Use code ZULUAFW when ordering at <https://www.zululog.com/>



**Passenger fourteen-year-old Vy N.** with **So. CA Wing Command Pilot James Dell**, who flew Vy on the last of a 2-leg mission from Yuma, AZ to Santa Monica, CA. The first leg from Tucson, AZ to Yuma was flown by **AZ Wing Command Pilot Brian Kotso**. Vy is being seen at UCLA for kidney disease and a post-op transplant check-up. Vy's family struggles with the limited resource of one income and worries about how they'll meet her treatment and travel costs. AFW is helping to alleviate this latter worry.

## Friends and family are honored and remembered through donations made to AFW in their names.

November 11, 2016 ~ February 27, 2017

### *In Memory Of*

Ann Callahan	Josh Merrill
Lee Cobb	William Merrill
David DePaolo	Cheryle Rutherford
Roz Grshaw	David Sheldon
Deeb Hammoudeh	Dale Spencer
Jeanne Ilgen	Henry Stuart
William Merrill	Peter and Kathleen Tomarken

### *In Honor Of*

Peter Bernardin	Travis James Kuenzi
Nicole Campbell	Garrett Nackerman
Don Creamer	Stan Simms
Craig Greenberg	Logan Denton Smith
Jeff and Laurie Hider and Family	Isabel H. Sotomayor
	Warren Woods

*I am incredibly grateful for the assistance Angel Flight has been able to offer. Thank-you for making a crappy situation better and for restoring my faith in humanity. Much love and thanks to all involved!*

—Passenger Abby F.



**AZ Command Pilot James Phillips** flying passenger **Sara C.** and husband Leon from Tucson, AZ to Prescott, AZ. They are a retired couple on a fixed income with limited travel resources. Sara is flying to her cancer treatment and consultation for a possible second transplant, which may require further trips to the doctor.



**AZ Command Pilot Walter Varney** with two Marines from the **U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program**, flying toys from Scottsdale, AZ to Cottonwood, AZ. The program aims to unite members of local communities during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign to help less fortunate children experience the joy of Christmas.

## Angel Flight West Wishes to Thank Our Top Contributors

November 11, 2016 – February 27, 2017



Morris Foundation  
Anonymous

The Dorrance Family Foundation  
Jeff and Linda Hendricks Family Foundation  
The Gregor G. Peterson Family Foundation



Alaska Airlines charity miles program offers Mileage Plan™ members

a unique and meaningful way to support important causes like AFW. Your miles donated to this program help AFW's passengers get to necessary medical treatment. In addition, AFW thanks Alaska Airlines for its generous donation of hundreds of tickets to patients in need of necessary medical treatments. You can donate miles to AFW via Alaska Airlines at: <http://tinyurl.com/993tk7s>

# 2017

Events Calendar

### APRIL

**8** Rocky Mountain Blood Cancer Conference, Denver  
**29** AOPA Fly-In Camarillo, Camarillo Airport (CMA)

### MAY

**6** Endeavor Awards, California Science Center  
**13** OR Wing Spring Fly-In, Creswell Hobby Field

### JUNE

**3** No.CA Fly-In, Byron Airport (C83)

### SEPTEMBER

**29** **SAVE THE DATE!** AFW Golf Tournament, Monarch Beach Golf Links

Contact Wings for local information or click on: <http://tinyurl.com/pxv6cxc>



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## Join us at the 4th Annual Endeavor Awards

honoring



### CAPTAIN "SULLY" SULLENBERGER

and volunteer pilots

Endeavor Award Winners:  
**LT. COL. DICK STOOPS AND  
JEFF BENNETT**

Endeavor 1000 Award:  
**AFW PILOT STEVE DANZ**

hosted by **AMELIA EARHART** with special guests,  
including **GREG KINNEAR, U.S. ASTRONAUTS, AND MORE**

**Saturday, May 6th, 2017, Los Angeles**  
under the Space Shuttle Endeavour at the California Science Center

For tickets and more information, visit [www.endeavorawards.org](http://www.endeavorawards.org)

Angel Flight West delivers health and hope using donated flights to serve those with healthcare or other compelling human needs.