Approaching the next horizon of healthcare access for all

10th Annual Endeavor Awards

May 10, 2024
Taking care to new heights

Alaska is deeply invested in the places where we work and live. Our commitment to these regions runs nonstop—because every flight is someone’s journey home.

We’re proud to support Angel Flight West.

ORDER OF EVENTS

Dinner and Awards Presentation
Endeavor Award presented to John Rochelle, PALS SkyHope
Endeavor Award presented to Dennis M. Phelan, Angel Flight West
Inspiration Award presented to Dr. Randy Sherman, accepted by Max Sherman
Inspiration Award presented to Ross Perot, Jr. and Hill Air

Live Auction
Bid on memorable auction experiences to support the gift of flight

Paddle Raise - Fund-a-Flight
Raise your paddles for the Dr. Randy Sherman Access for All Fund

Night Air Show
Join us in the Exposition Park Rose Garden for the dazzling drone show

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL ENDEAVOR AWARDS
ENDEAVOR AWARDS HOST COMMITTEE

Sean D. Tucker & Daniel Cheung, Co-Chairs
Emily Deaton, Christy DeYoung, Monica Kenney, Dale Klapmeier, Rhonda Larance, Ben Marcus, Mark Merrill, Scott Parazynski, Garrett Reisman, Cyrus Sigari, Mark Wolper

AFW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Wolper, Chair
Zachary Spear, Secretary
Jim Origliosso, Treasurer
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Carlos Zendejas

OUR 2023 IMPACT

Founded in 1983, Angel Flight West delivers health and hope using donated flights to serve those with healthcare or other compelling human needs. In the air, Angel Flight West links volunteer pilots and commercial airlines with people whose non-emergency health needs require air transportation to access care. On the ground, volunteer drivers (“Earth Angels”) ferry passengers to and from their medical appointments and airports.

101,183 DONATED FLIGHTS TO DATE

3,000 VOLUNTEERS

1,613 tickets donated by airline partners, including Alaska Airlines

$0 PATIENT COST

2,666 PEOPLE SERVED

4,667 MISSIONS FLOWN
$5.8 million raised to support 30,000 flights

43 honorees and 23 Charitable Aviation Organizations

- ENDEAVOR AWARD -

2014
Jeff Hendricks, Veteran’s Airlift Command (VAC)
Joe DeMarco, Sr. Wings Flights of Hope
Joe Howley, Patient Airlift Services (PALS)

2015
John Billings, Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic
Rick Durden, LightHawk
Steve Purello, Angel Flight Southeast

2016
Colonel Richard Iversen (Ret.), VAC
Jim Platz, PALS
Dianna Stanger, Angel Flight South Central

2017
Steve Danz, Angel Flight West (AFW)
Jeff Bennett, Pilots N Paws
Lt. Colonel Dick Stoops, Remote Area Medical

2018
Wanda Bash Whitsitt, Lifeline Pilots
Kevin D’Angelo, Wings Flights of Hope

2019
Gary Dee Dyson, Orbis
Merry Schroeder, LightHawk

2021
All Volunteer Pilots
Air Care Alliance

2022
Mark Hanson, PALS
Raymond Bailey, Angel Flight South Central

2023
Stephen & Joanna Bobko-Hillenaar, AFW
Shakeel Mozzafar, Angel Flight NE

2024
Dennis M. Phelan, AFW
John Rochelle, PALS SkyHope

- INSPIRATION AWARD -

2014
Lynda Oschin, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Oschin
Family Foundation
Kevin Kaufman

2015
Clay Lacy
Scott Terry and Ben Affleck, Tempus Jets

2016
Capt. Charlie Plumb
Dick Rutan, Retired United States Air Force Officer and Record Breaking Aviator

2017
Chesley Burnett “Sully” Sullenberger III

2018
Bill Ayer, Alaska Airlines
Dale Klipmeier, Cirrus Aircraft

2019
Sean D. Tucker, American Aviator
Red Bull

2021
Capt. Tammie Jo Shults, Southwest Airlines
Seymour “Si” Robin, Sensor Systems Inc.
Johnese Spisso, UCLA Health System

2022
Ben Marcus and Cyrus Sigari, UP Partners
Dr. Jeff Sperring, Seattle Children’s Hospital

2023
Angel Flight West Founders: Dennis and Averi Torres
John Plueger
Brian Weiss
Alan Lund
Bill Worden
Keith and Adine Kretschmer
Gary Davis

2024
Randy Sherman, M.D., Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Ross Perot, Jr. & Hill Air

- FUTURE OF FLIGHT AWARD -

2022
Zipline

2023
Overair
PASSENGER STORY: BRADLEY

One of Dennis Phelan’s most recent and frequent passengers is Bradley from Fort Mohave, AZ.

Since 2021, Dennis has flown Bradley and his mom Jennifer to and from Bradley’s cancer treatment at Phoenix Children’s Hospital 24 times.

He’s also been an Earth Angel for the mother-and-son duo, ensuring they can also travel between the local airport and medical facility without added financial stress.

When speaking of their trips with Dennis, Jennifer says:

“Every flight elevates the spirits of those facing challenging times and is filled with compassion. Because Dennis provides support and empowerment, Bradley’s diagnosis doesn’t exist during our angel flights.”

PASSENGER STORY: LUIS

Twelve-year-old Luis has been flying with Angel Flight West since 2016 to access his far-off care for post-liver transplant treatment with 68 angel flights to date.

Luis has been flying with Angel Flight West since 2016 to access his far-off care for post-liver transplant treatment. Every few months, Luis and his mother Maria fly with a volunteer pilot from San Diego to Santa Monica for Luis’ medical appointment at UCLA. Afterwards, a volunteer pilot flies the mother-son duo home.

In addition to giving Luis and his mother Maria the gift of flight, our volunteer pilots have given Luis a piece of their passion for aviation. “I like to sit in the front of the plane,” says Luis. “I want to be a pilot one day.”

In 2023, Luis and Maria helped AFW mark an incredible milestone by flying along on AFW’s 100,000th mission. The celebratory flights were flown by longtime volunteer pilot Rob Ross and actor and pilot Edward Norton.
**MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Welcome to the 10th Annual Endeavor Awards!

This year marks a full decade of gathering to celebrate charitable aviation and the extraordinary difference made by volunteer pilots across the country. Ten years ago, AFW volunteer pilot and current board chair Mark Wolper, along with fellow board members Ben Marcus and Tom Gallagher, wanted to spotlight the positive impact general aviation makes to serve those in need. “It’s time to tell the world how public benefit flying saves precious lives,” said Mark. Out of that vision, the Endeavor Awards were born.

A decade later, revenue and visibility from this annual event significantly increases Angel Flight West’s and other partner volunteer pilot organizations’ ability to connect thousands of patients and their families to volunteer pilots, removing transportation as a barrier to receiving their life-saving medical care.

I still recall our inaugural Endeavor Awards in 2014, when we gathered in the Samuel Oschin Space Shuttle Endeavour Pavilion for the first time to honor Jeff Hendricks with Veteran’s Airlift Command and Angel Flight West, Joe DeMarco, Sr. with Wings Flights of Hope, and Joe Howley with Patient Airlift Services (PALS). Together, with 400 guests, we celebrated a cause that was bigger than any one of us and continues to change lives today.

This year, we come together again to honor four deserving awardees, including our dear friend and colleague Dr. Randy Sherman, who left this world too soon. His passion for making health care accessible for all resonates deeply, inspiring us to keep rising higher to create change for people in need.

Whether this is your first year or 10th year at the Endeavor Awards, I can’t thank you enough for supporting the gift of flight — and for helping us take off on another 10 years of saving precious lives.

Josh Olson
Executive Director,
Angel Flight West

**MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS**

This year, Angel Flight West (AFW) is celebrating 10 years of the Endeavor Awards! For an entire decade, this incredible event has helped raise awareness and important funds to reach more families who need transportation to medical care. We’re honored to be hosting this year’s memorable evening, surrounded by so many supporters and volunteers who make it all possible.

For Daniel, getting involved with AFW as a supporter, board member, and Endeavor co-chair has allowed him to partner with his colleagues in general aviation to grow AFW’s network of volunteer pilots, all to serve more communities and families who can benefit from donated flight services.

For Sean, a past Inspiration Awardee, 2024 Endeavor Awards host, and aviation leader, flying has always felt uplifting and empowering. Being a part of Angel Flight West and the Endeavor Awards has given Sean the opportunity to share his passion while advancing the mission of charitable aviation.

Congratulations to this year’s awardees Ross Perot, Jr. and Hill Air, Randy Sherman M.D. (posthumously), Dennis M. Phelan of Angel Flight West, and John Rochelle of PALS SkyHope. While we wish Randy could be here to accept his award, we’re honored to carry on his inspiring legacy tonight with his son Max.

Finally, we thank and congratulate every volunteer pilot who flies for a charitable aviation organization. Your generosity is making a difference!

Sean D. Tucker
Endeavor Awards Host

Daniel Cheung
Endeavor Awards Co-Chair
Randy Sherman, M.D. (1951-2023)

On May 27th, 1951 Randy Sherman was born a pilot and on July 18th, 2023 Randy Sherman died a pilot. Between those two dates he led a life that touched hearts, helped wounded, and inspired people around the world.

In addition to most recently serving as director of the Cedars-Sinai Division of Plastic Surgery and Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Dr. Sherman volunteered his time and talent with Smile Train and Operational Smile, providing pro bono medical services to people in need. He joined Angel Flight West as a volunteer 10 years ago and served as an amazing advocate, mentor, and champion for the organization’s cause.

In honor of Dr. Sherman’s incredible charitable impact, the Inspiration Award will be presented by Harrison Ford and accepted by Randy’s son Max. “My dad and Harrison Ford shared a love which every pilot can appreciate,” says Max. “The horizon, but more importantly, they were both incredibly aware of the duty that comes with seeing it. Their friendship was forged in using their wings to help their fellow man soar.”

Dr. Randy Sherman Access for All Fund at Angel Flight West
- angelflightwest.org/drshermanfund -

Dr. Sherman’s profound commitment to our mission resonates deeply with us, and this renaming serves as a tribute to his legacy of compassion and advocacy.

This fund will continue to provide vital travel resources and assistance to individuals in need, ensuring that no patient is denied essential transportation to medical care due to financial barriers. Dr. Sherman’s lasting impact on our organization and community will be felt for years to come.

Ross Perot, Jr. & Hill Air

Ross Perot, Jr. made history by completing the first helicopter flight around the world in less than 30 days in 1982. He went on to serve as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. As chair of the Air Force Memorial Foundation, he led the 14-year effort to build the U.S. Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C. In 1988, Mr. Perot developed Fort Worth Alliance Airport, the country’s first industrial airport, which now anchors AllianceTexas, a 27,000-acre master-planned, mixed-use community in North Texas.

Mr. Perot currently serves on the boards of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), and the Hoover Institution. He also is board member emeritus for both Vanderbilt University and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. Today, Mr. Perot serves as Chairman of The Perot Group, which manages various Perot family interests that include real estate, oil and gas, and financial investments. Mr. Perot is also Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hillwood, a multinational real estate development company based in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Perot and the Perot family have a longstanding history of supporting our nation’s first responders, veterans, and military personnel. They have consistently demonstrated this commitment by offering their fleet of aircraft to facilitate critical humanitarian aid missions and to provide transportation support for the families of wounded and fallen soldiers and first responders. Most recently, Mr. Perot donated a Bell 407 GX helicopter to the City of Dallas to support law enforcement and first responder missions.
Up until 20 years ago, Dennis Phelan was at the pinnacle of his career, serving as town administrator in a small, East Coast community. In Dennis’ own words, “Life was good!”

Then, as Dennis continues, “the big three happened.” While grieving the unexpected loss of his mother, Dennis spent time in the hospital for a still not fully understood medical issue. And, after 15 years of dedicated service, Dennis was told he was “let go” from his job.

Having earned his pilot’s license in 1986, Dennis begrudgingly moved to Georgia to build his flight hours in the right seat of a Beechcraft 1900, flying freight six nights a week. Then, he moved west to be Second in Command on an air ambulance.

In 2009, looking for ways to fill his downtime, Dennis volunteered to fly for Angel Flight West. Now, after 15 years of charitable flying, he reflects on the many passengers that have left a permanent mark on his memory.

Dennis says, “It was through the incredible administration and staff at AFW that I met Nancy and Marilyn, passengers who had the same cancers and who chose to be treated at Cedars Sinai Medical Center...Don who would come from Las Vegas to the Mayo Clinic for his cancer treatments...Nine-year old Mason with kidney disease...Trina and her four-year old daughter, who regularly came to Phoenix from Northern California to be treated for breast cancer... and Bradley, AFW Mission Assistant and aspiring Command Pilot. The list of unforgettable passengers goes on, and I was hooked.”

Dennis has donated hundreds of flights to help, including COVID relief and Flights of Joy. Speaking of the passengers above, Dennis remarks, “These are just a few of the truly remarkable people whom I have had the privilege to meet, befriend, and admire, and from whom I learned about life, genuine strength, and the power of hope. And especially, how very fortunate I was to have been "let go."

In addition to serving on their boards, John estimates that he has flown close to 400 flights and approximately 5000 hours for PALS SkyHope, AirLifeLine, Volunteer Pilots Association, Angel Flight America, and Angel Flight Northeast. Regarding his leadership and flying efforts on behalf of PALS, John states, “Family aside, this is the best thing I’ve done in my life.”

When speaking of John, the team at PALS SkyHope says, “Serving on a board is one of the toughest volunteer roles, and John has taken on this duty with dedication, grace and passion. More than his amazing compassion for others and hours of volunteer piloting, PALS is grateful for his active leadership as an appreciated steward of PALS SkyHope. John’s willingness to go above and beyond to help others is a huge testament to his character. He will continue to be known throughout the community for his immeasurable thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you, John, for all that you have done for others. Your kindness has truly touched numerous lives in a meaningful way.”

John lives in Pennsylvania with his wife Diane and has a daughter, a son, three grandsons, and one granddaughter.
HOST & AUCTIONEER

We’re thrilled to welcome TV personality and singer/songwriter Matt Rogers back as our host and auctioneer this year!

Matt Rogers is a TV show personality, NFL Announcer and business owner. After becoming a Rose Bowl Champion in 2001 with the Washington Huskies, Matt followed his passion for television. He first found fame as a Season 3 finalist on FOX’s reality singing competition “American Idol.” Matt began auctioneering in 2008 when his son was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis. Matt and his wife wanted to give back to a cause that gave people hope for a better future.

Rogers is a proud husband to wife Teri, and father to Brayden (18), Mason (16), Samantha (9) & Brooklyn (2).

SPECIAL GUESTS

The Inspiration Award will be presented by Actor Harrison Ford in honor of Dr. Randy Sherman (posthumously) and accepted by Max Sherman, Randy’s son.

Well known for his acting career, Harrison Ford is a licensed pilot of both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. In March 2004, Ford became the chair of Young Eagles, a program offered by the Experimental Aircraft Association to interest young people in aviation. He remained in the position for five years, flying more than 280 children in his DHC-2 Beaver.

Ford is an honorary board member of the humanitarian aviation organization, Wings of Hope. In 2010, he flew his Cessna 208 Caravan to Hinche, Haiti with Dr. Sherman to command an airlift of Operation Smile medical volunteers and supplies to provide needed treatment for earthquake victims.

“My dad and Harrison Ford shared a love which every pilot can appreciate,” says Randy’s son Max. “The horizon, but more importantly, they were both incredibly aware of the duty that comes with seeing it. Their friendship was forged in using their wings to help their fellow man soar.”

Harrison Ford

Garrett Reisman
Astronaut

Steve Swanson
Astronaut

Stephen Robinson
Astronaut
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Sponsors confirmed as of April 24.
To view a full list of sponsors, please visit endeavorawards.org.
We understand and encourage participation in charitable programs that use the gift of flight to help others in need.

Join other pilots who give back to those in need while doing something they love.

aopa.org/membership

Congratulations to tonight’s honorees and to Angel Flight West for celebrating 10 years of the Endeavor Awards!

We’re honored to support the event tonight in memory of Dr. Randy Sherman.

Si Robin Foundation
Congratulations to tonight’s honorees and to every volunteer pilot who flies for charitable aviation organizations.

Your generosity is making a difference in our communities!

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With Gratitude

Honoring Those Who Lift Others on Their Wings with Open Hearts

Under the twilight sky, our journeys find purpose, guided by our mission. We extend our gratitude to those whose generosity uplifts the lives we serve.

Congratulations to our 2024 Endeavor Award winners. Your commitment to providing flights and medical services transforms lives. Thank you for your dedication and service.

Cutter Aviation is proud to support Angel Flight West and the 2024 Endeavor Awards, honoring the selfless pilots who generously donate flights to those in need, while delivering hope and healing across the skies.
We are proud to join Angel Flight West in honoring our friend, Dr. Randy Sherman.

His passions for flying and for being of service to others truly knew no bounds.

Susan and Eric Smidt

UCLA Health recognizes the volunteer pilots who donated their time and skills to help people across the nation access health care and hope.

Your charitable humanitarian efforts have provided patients of all ages with free flights. We commend you for this well-deserved honor, and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the charitable efforts of the aviation community in the future.

Together we can bridge the gap between health and hope.
Congratulations to tonight’s Angel Flight honorees!
Thank you for your service and commitment to excellence.

You inspire us all.

Leslie & Robert Zemeckis

The Bruce R. McCaw Family Foundation is proud to support the Endeavor Awards in memory of Dr. Randy Sherman.

Congratulations to tonight’s honorees and thank you to the many volunteer pilots and the Angel Flight West team for all your efforts to provide hope and save lives.

JetAVIVA is proud to support Angel Flight West and the Endeavor Awards

Boeing is Proud to Support the Endeavor Awards.

We celebrate all the volunteer pilots and organizations that help brighten the world.

The Bruce R. McCaw Family Foundation salutes tonight’s honorees

Dr. Randy Sherman
Ross Perot, Jr. and Hill Air
Dennis M. Phelan, AFW
John Rochelle, PALS SkyHope

for supporting charitable aviation

Congratulations!

MARKS FAMILY FOUNDATION

Dr. Randy Sherman
Ross Perot, Jr. and Hill Air
Dennis M. Phelan, AFW
John Rochelle, PALS SkyHope

for supporting charitable aviation

Congratulations!

Seattle Children’s Hospital, Research, Education
Hope. Care. Cure.™
The missions you do matter to us!

Thank you to all the Angel Flight West TBMs for bringing meaning to the work we do.

avexaviation.aero

The Air Care Alliance expresses our deep appreciation for the dedicated volunteers who selflessly give their time, skills, and passion to help others through aviation. Your unwavering commitment uplifts communities, transforms lives, and inspires hope!

aircarealliance.org
CONGRATULATIONS
TODAY'S ENDEAVOR HONOREES

ANGEL FLIGHT WEST

MARK MERRILL
AFW BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND

CONGRATULATIONS
ANGEL FLIGHT WEST
ON YOUR
100,000TH MISSION!

FROM CATHIE AND ROB ROSS
AND THE ENTIRE
ROSS FAMILY

2024 AFW GOLF CLASSIC
SEPTEMBER 27, 2024
MONARCH BEACH GOLF LINKS

Play a round, enjoy some wine
and beer, and bid on exciting
auction items to support the
gift of flight. Contact
maryh@angelflightwest.org
for sponsorship details.

ANGELFLIGHTWEST.ORG/GOLF

Run or walk your 5K at
Rocky Mountain
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ANGELFLIGHTWEST.ORG/5KRUN
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IN MEMORIAM - MAY 2023 - MAY 2024

Kenneth Butler, Volunteer
Kenneth Butler was a volunteer pilot with AFW in the Northern California Wing, flying dozens of missions to help people reach far-off treatment in the early 2000s.

Mark Greenberg, Retired Board Member and Volunteer
Mark was a former volunteer pilot and board member with AFW. Mark helped AFW spread its wings throughout Colorado, serving as the state’s first wing leader.

Vince Giampa, Volunteer
Vince was a former AFW Command Pilot and Southern California Wing Leader. During his tenure as a volunteer pilot, he flew 89 missions to help passengers reach care.

Irving Moskovitz, Volunteer
Irving was a longtime volunteer pilot and office assistant, flying more than 114 missions during his tenure with AFW in the early 2000s.

Richard McSpadden, AOPA Air Safety Institute Senior Vice President
Richard was a very accomplished pilot, including serving as Commander of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds during his military career, a trusted colleague, friend, son, husband, and father.

Chris Rushing, Former President of Condor Squadron
Chris was known to many as a great man and a skilled pilot, passionate about aviation and serving the community, including Angel Flight West.

Dick Rutan, Endeavor Inspiration Awardee
Aviator Dick Rutan piloted a wide variety of civil and military aircraft for six decades. He was an Inspiration Awardee at the Endeavor Awards in 2016.

Dr. Randy Sherman, Supporter and Volunteer
Angel Flight West is honored to carry on Randy’s legacy of aviation and health care, bridging the gap between home and health for the patients and families who need us.

Earle Tighe, Volunteer
A volunteer with the Colorado wing, Earle flew 18 missions to help patients overcome the transportation barrier to health care.

Jim Winkelbauer, Volunteer
A longtime volunteer with Angel Flight West, Jim was instrumental in organizing the inaugural AFW golf classic and even constructed AFW’s office build out.
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angelflightwest.org | @angelflightwest