

Testimony of

Rosemary Pelissier
Oregon Wing Leader
Angel Flight West

The House Committee On Veterans' Services and Emergency Preparedness

In Support of

Senate Concurrent Resolution 15

Honoring pilots and volunteers of Oregon Wing of Angel Flight West for service to people of this state

Chairman Matthews, committee members, I am Rosemary Pelissier, a resident of Hillsboro, and the Wing Leader of the Oregon Wing of Angel Flight West. I am here today in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 15.

I would like to start by thanking the Chief Sponsors of this resolution, Senator Steiner Hayward, Senator Johnson, and Representative Smith, as well as all of the additional sponsors for proposing this honor for the pilots and volunteers of the Oregon Wing of Angel Flight West.

Today I will be providing an overview of Angel Flight West and the service that our pilots and volunteers provide to the citizens of our state. I have two additional members of my Wing Leadership Team present today. Raoul Van Landuyt is the Oregon Wing Hospital & Agency Outreach Coordinator. He will be introducing you to the many non-Pilot volunteers that are so critical to the success of the Oregon Wing. Joe Pelissier is an Oregon Wing Command Pilot and Chief Orientation Pilot. He will be providing information on the Oregon citizens that volunteer to become Oregon Wing Command Pilots and he will share a personal story of one of the countless families that have been served by the Oregon Wing

Angel Flight West is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that arranges free, non-emergency air travel for children and adults with serious medical conditions and other compelling needs. Our pilots throughout the 13 western states donate their aircraft, piloting skills and all flying costs to help families in need, enabling them to receive vital treatment that might otherwise be inaccessible because of financial, medical, or geographic limitation. Our pilots give freely of their time and money, restoring health and hope to those whose lives have been disrupted by illness, disaster, and other life-altering events.

The Oregon Wing membership consists of 70 Command Pilots, and 27 additional non-flying volunteers. The wing flew 216 missions in 2012. In addition, through our "Earth Angel" partnership with the Lions Clubs of Oregon, we were able to provide 65 connecting ground transports.

We fly a wide variety of missions. Some examples include:

- Transportation for health care appointments, such as chemotherapy, pre- and post-operative consultations, etc.
- Pre- and post-organ transplant care

- Transportation of family members of patients in hospitals
- Transportation of military personnel to the VA Hospital and back home from deployments
- Transportation of kids and volunteers to special needs camps for conditions such as diabetes, burns, and HIV
- Emergency relocation of victims of domestic violence
- Time-critical tissue transportation including eye tissue and blood from rural blood drives
- Transportation of service animals

Our passengers are never charged for the services we provide. The Oregon Wing Command Pilots provide all of the aircraft in support of our mission and cover all flight costs.

Last year, the Oregon Wing received a special honor: the OHSU Oregon Office of Rural Health awarded us with the 2012 Hero of the Year Award. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to show a short video produced by the Office of Rural Health highlighting the work of the Oregon Wing. I have included the link to this video in my written testimony:

<http://vimeo.com/52580003>

In conclusion, it has been a great personal honor to be the leader of the Oregon Wing. Our Command Pilots and volunteers represent the best in the citizens of our state. On behalf of the Oregon Wing, I thank you for your consideration of this resolution, and for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Mr. Chairman, in the interest of making the best use of the committee's time, I would like to suggest that we hold questions until the end of Raoul Van Landuyt's and Joe Pelissier's testimony.