

## George Milligan Honored

Mercy Flights founder inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame

Mercy Flights is proud to announce that our founder, George Milligan, was recently inducted into the Evergreen Aviation Museum's Hall of Honor, in McMinnville, Oregon. The Aviation Museum honors Oregon's finest in aviation—the men and women who have made important contributions to aviation and air power in all fields including military, civilian, engineering, business, education and government.

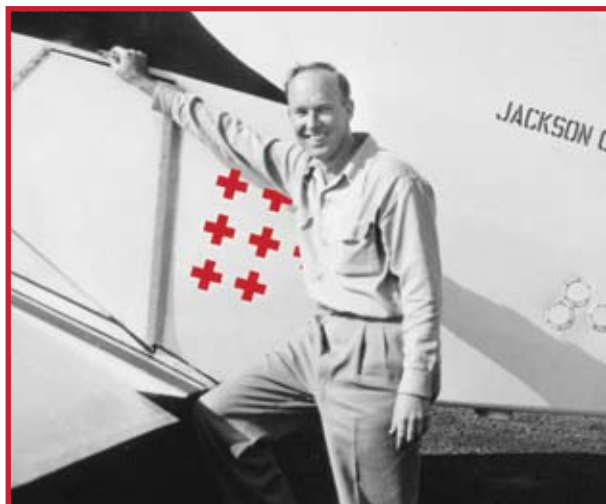
George Milligan died in 1985. To accept the honor for him, his family traveled to McMinnville to attend the October 22 induction ceremony.

In 1949, George was a young air traffic controller in Medford. The nearest high level medical facilities were in Portland or Eugene.

Many local residents had to be transported out of the area for medical treatment.

George saw this as a tremendous problem and he visualized the solution. The best way to get quick, high level medical care was by airplane, not by ground transportation along the only available road in 1949: an old, narrow, winding highway.

George's friend—a local businessman—was unable to survive the long, slow ground transport to Portland for treatment. George was able to rally the residents of Jackson County to join him



George Milligan and Iron Annie - 1950

in founding Mercy Flights, the only private non-profit company of its kind in the United States.

Through fundraising efforts by schoolchildren, scouts, and others in the community, George raised enough money to buy Mercy Flights' first aircraft, a twin engine Cessna, known as the "Bamboo

*George Milligan continued next page*



## stocking stuffer

### How do you fit a helicopter into a Christmas Stocking?

It's easy! Simply call the Mercy Flights office to purchase a gift membership for your loved ones. You never know when an accident or sudden illness can occur. But you can protect your family and friends from additional expenses during this difficult time.

A Mercy Flights membership can save them hundreds or even thousands of dollars if they need emergency transportation. Give this lifesaving gift for the holiday.

Call us today to find out more: **541-858-2600**



2020 Milligan Way  
Medford, OR 97504

541-858-2600  
1-800-903-9000

[www.mercyflights.com](http://www.mercyflights.com)

Holiday 2006

George Milligan continued from cover

Bomber.” A membership program was established. It provided people in the community with an opportunity to contribute to Mercy Flights, while insuring that they would be financially covered in the event that they needed aero medical transportation.

“George was a guy who lived and breathed Mercy Flights,” said Mike

Burrill Sr., chairman of the state aviation board and chairman on the Hall of Honor committee. “He was a full-time controller in the tower, but when an ambulance call got made, he would make sure the job got done.”

Burrill was also a pilot with Mercy Flights and flew with Milligan, who served as a mentor to young pilots. ■



Family of George Milligan

# Fast Facts

● **Expert Training:** Mercy Flights’ emergency medical staff consists of EMTs, paramedics, registered nurses, and experienced pilots.

● **Advanced Equipment:** Mercy Flights maintains a fleet of advanced life-support equipped ambulances to respond to emergency 911 calls 24 hours a day.

● **High Value:** A Mercy Flights membership can mean a significant cost savings in the event of an emergency.

● **Gift to Save Lives:** You can purchase a gift Mercy Flights membership for your friends and family at any time during the year.

## angel donor

Long-time Mercy Flights members Pauline and Wayne Kirkwood are Mercy Flights Angels. Each year they give a gift membership to their adult son and his family. “My son is a hunter and a fisher and my grandson is a wrestler,” Pauline says. “We feel good about giving the gift membership in case something happens. The family has it if they need it. And Mercy Flights is a good cause.”

You can become a Mercy Flights Angel too. It’s a great way to show loved ones how much you care. Simply purchase a membership on behalf of a friend or family member and become an Angel. Angel members receive a special “Angel” bumper sticker as a symbol of caring and for community support.

Join the Kirkwoods as Mercy Flights Angels — call our office today to join this wonderful program. ■





# Explorer program

The Mercy Flights Explorer Post #131 are young men and women, ages 14-20, who receive training and experience in emergency medical services.

Maybe you've attended a local youth rodeo or other community event and seen the familiar white ambulance with the swooping M on the side. It's the Mercy Flights emergency team, ready to help those in need. If you've noticed rather youthful looking First Responders coming to the assistance of an injured person, you just might be watching members of Mercy Flights Explorer Post #131. These well-trained volunteers are all under the age of 21.

Started in 1995; Mercy Flights Explorer Post #131 is a program for youth ages 14-20. The Explorers receive on-site exposure to the career of Emergency Medical Services through training, ambulance-ride-along experience, and mentoring. To be accepted, each Explorer Post applicant must go through a process much like a job interview.

Once involved, they are required to maintain good grades in school. Explorers participate in weekly meetings that cover emergency medical education and annual First Responder training. The Explorer participants are trained in basic first

aid skills. This allows them to provide supervised medical standbys and community outreach.

Events you may see the Explorer Post at include: Southern Oregon Dressage competitions, Southern Oregon High School Equestrian Teams' events, the Pear Blossom Run, and the Access Inc. "Run for Hunger".

Funded by the sale of first aid kits, community donations, and Mercy Flights, the Explorer Post works to instill strong work ethics and community values in our local youth. Many of Mercy Flights' staff started as Explorer Post volunteers.

In order to help these young Explorers get the further education they need to work in Emergency Medical Services, Mercy Flights has also established the Tim Sutton Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations from the community provide tuition assistance for students who have been in the Explorer Post for at least a year and have completed the First Responder program. To find out more, please call our office at 858-2600. ■

# Daring Rescue at Table Rock

## Mercy Flights and Fire District #3 Receive Unit Citation from State

The State of Oregon recently honored Mercy Flights and Fire District #3 with the EMS Unit Citation, which recognizes exceptional emergency pre-hospital care and support activities under extreme circumstances.

Last Spring, a group was climbing off-trail at Table Rock near Medford. One man decided to free climb a vertical wall above a crevasse. After climbing approximately 50 feet, loose rock gave way and he fell. Upon hitting the ground, the man tumbled and slid down another 30 feet into the crevasse. His companions called 911 on their cell phone.

Mercy Flights and Fire District #3 quickly responded and set up a rescue staging area. Mercy Flights' helicopter was used to transport personnel and equipment from the staging area up to the rim to establish a rescue scene.

The rescue team quickly located the victim—he was in a dangerous spot where falling and tumbling rocks were a constant threat. To further complicate the situation, prolific poison oak growth covered the sides of the crevasse.

Rescuers lodged an all-terrain vehicle against a rock shelf with its winch. Three personnel were lowered into the crevasse with medical equipment and a Stokes basket. They treated the patient and carefully loaded him into the basket. At the top of the narrow crevasse, the team had to maneuver the basket from a horizontal to vertical position. The patient was successfully rescued and flown by Mercy Flights' helicopter to a nearby medical center for treatment.

For their teamwork and professionalism, Mercy Flights and Jackson County's Fire District #3 were awarded Unit Citations. Thank you to everyone involved for your individual and collective acts of heroism and perseverance. ■



Table Rock, Rogue Valley, Oregon

*Happy Holidays! from all of us at Mercy Flights!*



Non-Profit Air and Ground Ambulance Services  
www.mercyflights.com • (800) 903-9000  
2020 Milligan Way • Medford, Oregon 97504

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