

RFB&D - Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic

[Home](#) » [Blog](#) » No Fear of Flying

[ShareThis](#)

No Fear of Flying

posted in [Blind/Visually Impaired](#)

4/13/2010



*A lifelong lover of flying and aviation, **Barry Hulon Hyde** is living proof that dreams can stay airborne even after disaster strikes. "Without RFB&D," he says, "I could not have become the first blind student to graduate from the world's largest flight school!"*

In June, 1998, while flying as a passenger in a small plane just outside Roanoke, Virginia, Hyde was nearly killed in a crash resulting from preflight and pilot error. After paramedics arrived and airlifted him to a hospital, he was pronounced dead on arrival before being resuscitated and placed on life support. Hyde's head injuries were so debilitating that he had to learn to walk again – as a blind person. To this day, his senses of taste and smell have never returned.

Remarkably, while spending the next several years in intensive rehabilitation, Hyde found that his passion for aviation was stronger than ever. He launched into an educational path that speeded his recovery and healed his spirits. In 2000, he managed to earn certificates as an Advanced Ground Instructor and Instrument Ground instructor – an achievement that hasn't been duplicated, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Hyde was introduced to RFB&D through the Raleigh School for the Blind. In 2004, he earned a Bachelor's in history from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, using RFB&D books as well as tape recording his classes for review and study. "I was very fortunate that my ears stayed intact so I could learn audibly," he says.

In 2007, with RFB&D's help, Hyde graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Master's of Science in aeronautics and a 4.0 GPA – the first and only blind graduate in the institution's 83-year history. As of this writing, he is several classes and a dissertation away from completing his Doctorate in business administration with a specialization in aviation safety – and that's not all.

In 2009, Hyde took a position with Daniel Webster College (an aviation school in New Hampshire) as an adjunct professor teaching an online safety and security class. And on March 1 of this year, he started a new job in Washington DC with the Federal Aviation Administration. Within a few weeks into the job, he was astonished to be greeted in person by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, a member of President Obama's cabinet.

After bucking unbelievable odds, Hyde is a man on a mission. "I want to be in a position to prevent what I went through from happening to other pilots," he says. He credits the many institutions that helped him, his fiancée Nancy Riedel, and his long-time guide dog, Lincoln (recently retired but still living with him) as enormously influential. RFB&D is honored to have played a part in his inspired flight path. - **Doug Sprei**



Comments

Jaw dropping

By [Jule Ann Lieberman](#) at 2010/04/14 11:13

Here I was giving myself a pat on my back for starting graduate school as a blind 52 year old woman and then I read what real potential is all about. After I closed my jaw I had to share this story with others. Thanks RFB&D for all your hard work, your textbooks and sharing this inspiring story. It just shows the sky is NO LIMIT for RFB&D members.

Jule Ann

Flying

By [David F](#) at 2010/04/14 20:26

Fascinating, Amazing. I thought I had accomplished something getting a Masters in Library Science in the late 90s---but did not find work, so am not really a success story and won't have to worry about appearing in any RFB&D publicity. I have been a member of (RFB as it was then called) since 1984. The accomplishments I have read about on RFB&D's website amaze me.

Barry's Story

By [Melody Smith](#) at 2010/04/16 14:40

I have the distinct pleasure of working with Barry Hyde. He has become a valuable asset to this office. Barry went through a horrible tradgey. Not only is Barry working on safety issues hoping to prevent this from happening to others, he has brought allot of life into this office and has improved the morale of this office. I am honored to be a coworker and friend to Barry Hyde.

Barry's Story

By [Buddy Counts](#) at 2010/04/18 19:02

Barry is a huge testimony as to what a person can do with the attributes of faith in God and himself.

Great !! Proud of You...

By [Garvey & Pat Elledge](#) at 2010/04/18 20:09

Hulon, we are proud of you.Keep up your good work.Love You. Uncle Garvey & Aunt Pat

aircraft safety

By [ferrell james](#) at 2010/04/18 21:25

hulon worked for me earlyon in his life sure nice to see him a total sucess go hulon go

Pilot's licence

By [Ken Carpenter](#) at 2010/04/19 07:33

Hulon has been a friend for a long time, and was my flight instructor, when I got my licence. Thanks.

My friend Barry

By [Carrie Gertz](#) at 2010/04/20 12:52

I, too, am fortunate enough to work with Barry. His accomplishments astound and inspire me; because of Barry, I believe all things are possible when you set your mind to it. Barry's presence in the office makes coming to work a pleasure and I am honored to be his friend.

Add a comment:

Subject *

Name *

Email: *

URL

Comment *




RFB&D, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, is funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education, state and local education programs, and the generous contributions of individuals, foundations and corporations.

© 2010 Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic. All rights reserved.

Powered by cmScribe Content Management System