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Brain cancer survivor takes flight to help others

By **Nicholas J.C. Pistor**
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
06/02/2007



Gabby Kissinger, age 15 gave her father, Brian Kissinger a hug and said good-bye before he took off at Downtown St Louis Airport, Cahokia, early Friday morning. (Wayne Crosslin /P-D)

awareness for brain cancer research.

A pilot's battle with brain cancer began on a tennis court and is ending in the sky.

Brian Kissinger, a former Air Force major, collapsed on a Scott Air Force Base tennis court on a hot summer day in 2003. He thought it was heat stroke.

After rounds of testing, Kissinger was told he had a brain tumor the size of a baseball. He soon underwent surgery to remove the tumor, followed by 20 months of chemotherapy.

Kissinger is now a cancer survivor. He is flying around the country to raise money and

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head to Indianapolis. Then to Cincinnati. Then to the South, and finally, over to California and back to Illinois. The mission is scheduled to take 21 days.

Kissinger lives in O'Fallon with his wife and three daughters.

"My dad is a great inspiration for the family," said Gabby Kissinger, his 15 year-old daughter. "If you're determined to do something, you can."

The daughters made signs to cheer their dad as he left on the first leg of his flight.

Kissinger has raised more than \$18,000. Proceeds go to the National Brain Tumor Foundation.

Online, see www.brainsflight.com.

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