



CAMI MESA

Robert Phillips (center) turned 80 in December, but he likes to say he's 43. He's got two birthdays, you see. Forty-three years ago, in January 1963, Tom Starzl sewed Phillips' sister's kidney into his body and got rid of Phillips' own kidneys, which were making him sick. Phillips is the world's longest surviving organ transplant recipient. He remembers how Starzl offered him a job in his lab while he was recovering—"Dr. Starzl told me to work when I wanted to. ... He has a lot of compassion for his patients. That means a whole lot of beans."

Phillips joined four other former Starzl patients on March 10 to mark another birthday—Starzl's 80th. Clockwise from left: liver transplant recipients Austin Szegda (age 22, transplant 1984), Kim Hudson Rasmussen (age 40, transplant 1970—the world's longest surviving liver transplant recipient), Betty Baird Lewis (49, transplant 1979), and Jerri Williams (37, transplant 1974).