



HONOR FLIGHT Rochester Newsletter

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Honor Flight Week in Victor

The town and merchants of Victor conducted its second annual fundraiser for Honor Flight Rochester during the week of May 11-17th. Eighteen merchants participated in the fundraiser, in which a portion of their sales for the week were donated to Honor Flight. In addition, Tim Maher, owner of Apparel Printers Plus (and president of the Victor Merchants Group), designed Honor Flight t-shirts to be sold during the fundraiser and donated the proceeds from the sale. The goal for this year's fundraiser was \$6,000.

Many thanks to Mike Stockman, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Victor for organizing "Honor Flight Week", to the merchants who participated, and to our many volunteers who walked the streets of Victor and staffed the table at Eastview Mall (right).



Here are some of the **54** Honor Flight vets who participated in the **Fairport Memorial Day Parade**. Many thanks to all who made this event possible—the Village of Fairport, the Fairport VFW which also hosted lunch, Jean Kelly (who organized our participation), all of the convertible drivers, and all who volunteered!



Missions 27 and 28



Dave Timmons has put together an HFR photo site on Shutterfly.com. If you have any photos to share, please e-mail them to:

volunteerhonorflightroc@gmail.com

and indicate when they were taken (e.g., on Mission 18).

Guardians and volunteers, please encourage your vets and their families to look for their photos at:

<http://honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com/>

They can easily order prints from the photo site, or download photos to print themselves.



Please visit the photo site to see additional photos of many missions, including Mission 28.

Many thanks to Dave for his efforts in putting this wonderful photo site together!



"We can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud when they go by." Will Rogers

HFR Benefit Concert

On Saturday, April 27th, the Nazareth College Office of Veterans Affairs and Prime Time Brass sponsored a wonderful benefit concert for Honor Flight Rochester at Nazareth College. The show, which was hosted by News 8's Maureen McGuire, featured the award-winning *Mission 14* video, presentation of the colors by the Patriot Guard Riders and the Joint Forces Color Guard, Honor Flight Rochester Volunteer Nurses leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and remarks by HFR President Woody Mench.



Along with hosts Prime Time Brass (and their NOLA Brass Band), the concert also featured the Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, the Ghost Riders, the Image City Sound Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, and the St. Joe's Reunion Brass Ensemble. It was a fantastic night of music!

The concert concluded with the Service Themes Medley, Echo Taps, and a singing of *America The Beautiful* by the entire auditorium. The Concert raised enough to send at least 40 veterans on their Honor Flights!

Two special treats during the concert were a talk by Jack Foy and on-stage dancing by Stan Rychlicki. Both veterans received standing ovations!

Many thanks to all of the musical groups and color guards who participated, and to Prime Time Brass and the Nazareth College Office of Veteran Affairs. Special thanks to PTB's Tom Allen and to Naz's Jeremy Bagley for the countless hours of planning that they put into this concert! Thanks also to The Legacy for donating all of the food and drink for this special evening!



"A veteran is someone who at one point in his life wrote a blank check payable to The United States of America for an amount up to and including his life."

Gene Castagnetti, Director of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.



Volunteer Spotlight: Laurie and Rick Palmer



In 2008, a Mark Hare newspaper column about Honor Flight Rochester inspired Laurie Palmer to contact Vince Hope to see what she could do to help—she loves vets and used to work at the VA. Laurie went on her first mission in the Spring of 2009 as both a guardian and as second member of the Health and Safety team—volunteers had to wear many hats in those early days! Today's missions are more fully staffed, as evidenced by this photo of Laurie with fellow nurses Kirk Nelson and Anthony DiMattia from Mission 27.

By the Spring of 2010, HFR was getting very busy and needed more leaders. Laurie eagerly volunteered her husband Rick, who then served as guardian for 3 relatively mobile vets on his first mission. When someone had to cancel at the last minute for the following mission, Rick

stepped in to be mission leader. This photo shows Rick (left) and Dave Timmons with the Senators Dole.



Both of the Palmers have now flown an amazing 9 or 10 missions for HFR! Rick and Laurie were also instrumental in helping the Syracuse hub fly its first mission last year. They helped train their volunteers in advance of that flight and also traveled along with them. Syracuse was so grateful and impressed with the Palmers that Woody remarked that we were lucky to get them back!

Laurie and Rick are also members of the HFR Speakers Bureau. Laurie helps the Health and Safety team with its pre-flight calls to veterans and organized our participation in the First ROC The Day event. The Palmers also participate in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Fairport.



Laurie is a professor of nursing at MCC, and Rick is field operations manager for the Great Lakes Region for Ricoh. The Palmers have two children: Rachael (21) who will attend law school in the fall and Ian (17) who attends MCC. In their spare time, their family enjoys outdoor activities such as bicycling on rail trails, camping, and kayaking.

Laurie and Rick say their favorite part about volunteering for HFR has been meeting the vets and watching them interact during the Saturday banquet. "We have been truly blessed to serve the greatest of the Greatest Generation. They teach us so much about patriotism, duty, dignity, and the importance of valuing life's simple joys." Maybe not so coincidentally, they both have grandfathers who served during WWII. This photo shows Laurie and Rick with Alvie Mahar on Mission 14.

Many, many thanks to the Palmers for their dedication, hard work, and countless hours spent on behalf of HFR!

Upcoming Events

The Williamson H.S. Jazz Ensemble Presents
Their 2nd Annual Benefit Concert for Honor Flight
5 - 8 pm on Friday, June 7th

The House Lawn at B. Forman Park in Pultneyville

Bring your own blankets/lawn chairs

Rain venue is Williamson High School

Suggested Donation: \$5 (BBQ also available)

Also Featuring:

The Marion H.S. Jazz Ensemble

The North Rose-Wolcott H.S. Jazz Ensemble

The Wayne H.S. Jazz Ensemble

The Penfield Rotary Big Band

(see photo of last year's concert below)



2013 Flying Schedule



Jun 15/16	Mission 29
Sep 14/15	Mission 30
Sep 28/29	Mission 31
Oct 19/20	Mission 32

Letters from Veteran Families



"I have never before experienced anything quite like the Honor Flight. Your staff works like a well-oiled machine. I felt completely at home with all of you.

The people at the airports were just overwhelming with their welcoming smiles and warm and hearty handshakes. One thing that got me were the little children reaching out to shake your hand. I made a point of shaking their hands and thanking them for coming out.

Thank you for the truly uplifting experience. May God bless all of you for the wonderful work you do."

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Jun 2-3 Fairport Canal Days
- Jun 3 Yates County Retired Educators
- Jun 5 Parma/Hilton/Hamlin Ch. of Comm.
- Jun 6 E. Rochester Senior Center
- Jun 6-9 LPGA Golf Tournament
- Jun 10 Cloverwood Senior Living
- Jun 19 Spencerport Lions Club
- Jul 3 Brighton Memorial Library
- Jul 12-14 HAG (Geneseo) Air Show
- Jul 14 Lima Car Show, Legion Post 282
- Jul 20 Braemar CC Golf Benefit
- Jul 26 Spurr Car Show Benefit
- Aug 2 Lakeshore CC Open Golf Benefit

Keep 'Em Flying

It finally happened: spring arrived and the Honor Flight Rochester Team got very busy. Two beautiful flights went out and we now have Missions 27 and 28 in the books. Our total of veterans flown now reaches 1,314.



The *Democrat and Chronicle's* front page on Monday May 20 made Mission 28 their major story. Compared to our coverage, the grand opening of East Avenue Wegmans got short shrift. Well done!

We are honored that our community thinks so highly of HFR and we receive so much support. Recently the town of Victor made HFR the "Booster Child of the Week." Throughout our area golf tournaments, concerts, dinners have been held in support of our efforts to honor our veterans. We are so fortunate to have a great PR team led by Richard Meier. We are truly grateful.

Maggie Brooks, the county supervisor, thinks we are the greatest thing since sliced bread. She went on a mission as a guardian last spring.

I hope that you were able to check out some of the Memorial Day activities in our area, or if you were unable to take part, you were able to put out a flag in front of your house to recognize Memorial Day.

There is a possibility my family will be here for the Father's Day Mission 29. Let's show them how good we are! Don't forget to come out Sunday, June 16 to cheer our veterans as they are welcomed home.

I want to thank C. P. Maloney and Rick Palmer (see page 4) and their crews for the great work they did on the latest missions.

Have a great summer.

Keep your ailerons straight and the needle pointed home.

Woody

Have a question, comment, or something to share?

DROP US A LINE!

VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com

Thank
a
Veteran!