



HONOR FLIGHT®

ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Landmark Largest Mission Completed

With two Missions already completed this Spring, and one more coming later this month, Honor Flight Rochester is as active as ever. Missions 46 and 47 were both great successes, and we are happy to announce that with 59 veterans on the flight, including 9 WWII veterans, 48 Korean War veterans, one Korean War/Vietnam War veteran, and Korean War/Cold War veteran, Mission 47 was our largest HFR mission to date! This brings the total number of veterans flown to 2,231. Also making Mission 47 special was a visit in Washington, D.C. by Earl Morse, founder of the Honor Flight Network.

Honor Flight Rochester Mission 47 landed on the 11th anniversary of the very first Honor Flight, which took 12 World War II veterans on 6 small planes from Ohio to Washington, D.C. to visit the WWII Memorial. Mr. Morse joined the HFR Mission 47 veterans, guardians, trip leaders and volunteers for dinner Saturday night and spoke to the group about that first mission, expressing his gratitude to everyone who has kept the organization active and growing since then.

As we have just celebrated Memorial Day, let us remember that for every veteran we take on his or her Honor Flight, there are countless others that never made it home to have this opportunity. It is a day to honor those fallen service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom; a day to remind us that each of the veterans that flies with us has lost friends, brothers and sisters they will never forget. We see their names etched into the expansive wall of the Vietnam Memorial, their images reflected in the Mural Wall of the Korean War Memorial, and their numbers represented by the 4,048 gold stars on the Freedom Wall of the World War II Memorial. We see the innumerable graves in Arlington National Cemetery, rows upon rows of white marble headstones, on our way to visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier — a reminder that some of those lost in combat will never be known. But we also know that every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine that has died fighting for our country lives on in the hearts and memories of the veterans who did come home, and in this way they are carried along with us on every Honor Flight Mission we take.

This is why our mission is so important, and we could not do it without the help of all of our volunteers. We thank you for your continued help and your dedication to this organization.



Latest News

Mission 46 and Mission 47 Photos

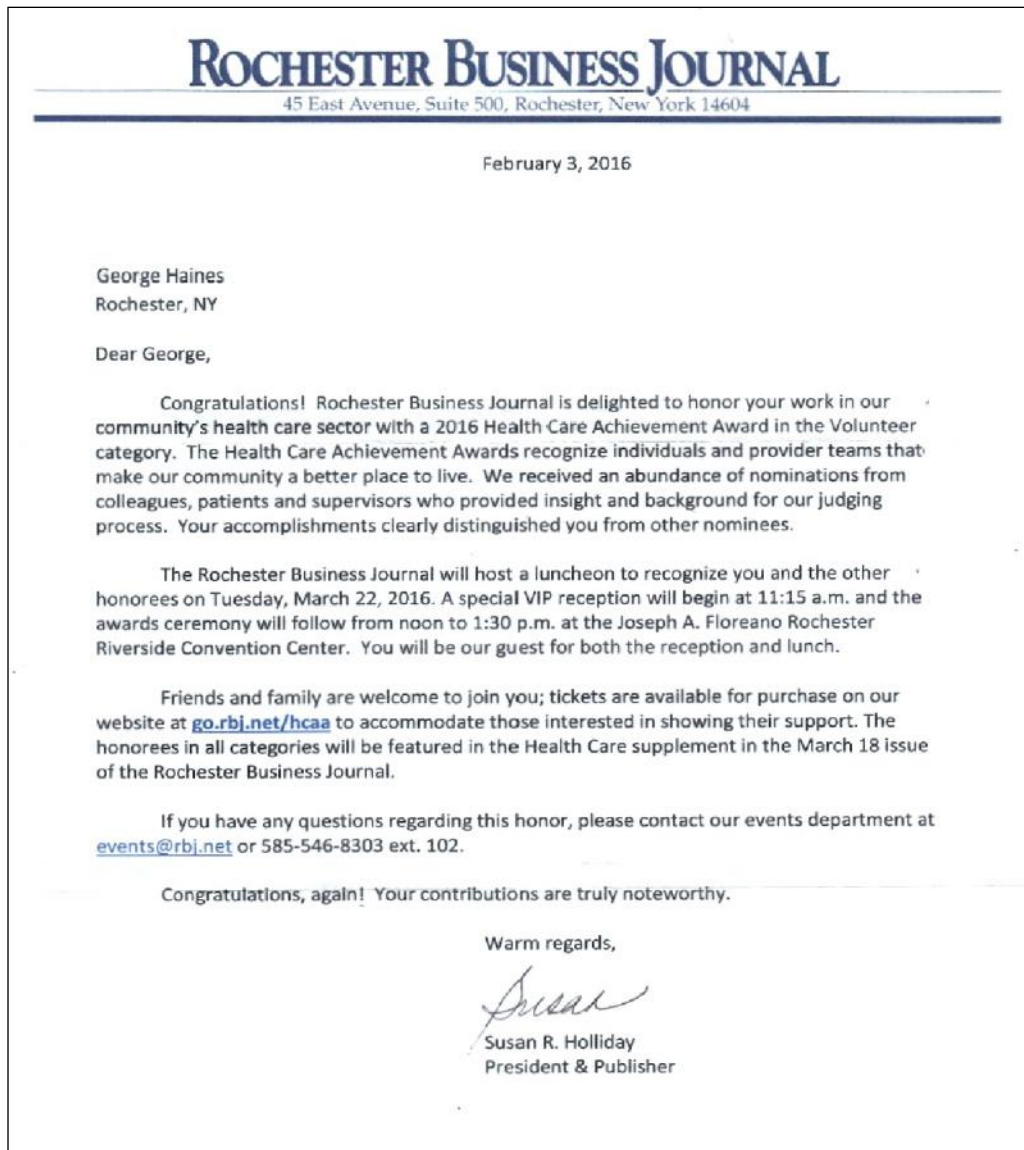


Latest News

“General” George Haines Receives Rochester Business Journal Award

World War II veteran and Honor Flight Rochester volunteer George Haines, better known as “General George,” was recently honored by the Rochester Business Journal. George was selected as one of only 21 individual recipients of the RBJ 2016 Healthcare Achievement Awards. The award was presented on March 22 at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center, and “recognizes individuals and groups whose contributions to health care have been deemed outstanding by their colleagues, patients and supervisors.”

George was awarded the Volunteer award, one of eight categories of the award. See the letter outlining his award below:





Veteran Memories—Richard (Dick) Brookins

Richard (Dick) Brookins wanted to serve his country as a pilot, but as he is blind in one eye, the Army Air Corps would not take him, nor would the other branches. The Army eventually decided that he was ok to serve, but their doctor told him he would never be sent overseas. However, after completing his training, he was sent to Tenby, Wales, in October 1943, and then into Europe in July 1944. He was home on leave awaiting reassignment to the Pacific Theater when the war finally ended. Dick participated in the liberation of Paris in 1944 and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and he is proud that he could do his job even with one eye.



“to Richard Brookins, the American GI of the 28th Infantry Division, honorary citizen of Wiltz, honorary member of the Oeuvre Saint Nicolas Wiltz, St. Nick for the children of our town, in December 1944”

Dick says, “I saw many terrible things that the enemy did to people. It was amazing how people could cope with war in their front yard.” In early December 1944, soldiers from Dick’s Message Center Team of the 28th Signal Company organized a wonderful St. Nicolas Day celebration for the children of Wiltz, Luxembourg, allowing them to forget about their privations for a brief time. The soldiers pooled their care packages and Dick donned a priest’s robes and miter along with a rope beard to play St. Nick. Although Wiltz was back behind German lines a short time later, the people never forgot what the American soldiers had done and have continued to reenact the celebration. Dick has returned several times to participate, including in 2014 when they unveiled a seven foot statue of him (*left and below*), aka “The American St. Nick.” The story inspired both a book and a documentary.

Dick was an encryptionist in the Army, and while he sees this episode as an adventure now, it was quite serious when he was being interrogated about the theft of some encoding/decoding equipment when he was stationed in Colmar, France in February 1945. The investigation took about a month, and the Army eventually discovered that two Frenchmen had stolen the truck with the equipment, and not knowing what it was, simply threw it in the river. Dick laughs, “Of all the trucks...”

Dick traveled with HFR on Mission 14. He says he found out about Honor Flight through the newspaper and radio and through the local chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, which he co-founded. He traveled on Mission 14 and says “the Chapter was very well represented” on that trip. His daughter Carol Northrop was his guardian. Dick says “I can’t think of anything run by anybody that was run better” and “everything was outstanding.” He appreciated HFR’s mission of making sure all veterans had the opportunity to see their monument.



“Mail call” brought back many memories of the importance of mail when serving overseas. Dick mentioned sharing letters with buddies who had not received any, and talked about how letters sometimes came out of sequence, which could be confusing. Due to the volume and weight of mail, the Army utilized the V-mail system developed in the 1930s by Eastman Kodak and some airlines. The letters were microfilmed at one end, flown across the ocean, and then printed on the other end, with the mail volume reduced by a factor of 37. Dick’s school letters came from Wheatland and he says that he enjoys talking to school and civics groups about his experiences.

Dick worked for Rochester Telephone for 37 years. Besides their daughter, he and his late wife Virginia have 3 sons.

Mailbag: Letters from Veterans



FRANK T

Monday - May 9, 2016

HONOR FLIGHT OF ROCHESTER, NY.
P.O. BOX 23581
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14692

Dear John,

I wish to tell you that your organization did a fantastic job and coming home was a very humble experience. I shall never forget it.

When I got to Rochester around 2 in the morning after my discharge from the Army, there was nobody there to greet me. My parents disliked me for volunteering for the military and they made me to never for get it. It was a cold and windy day when I got home so I had breakfast at the train station and layed on one of their wooden benches and waiting for when the streetcars would start running again so I could go home.

That was a long time ago and I forgave them and eventually, I also was forgiven.

Please accept my small enclosed token of appreciation for my honoring all your wonderful volunteers. They did a terrific job.

Also enclosed is a letter that was mis-directed. I'm sure the child is hoping for an answer. I supposed I could have read it and answered it myself, but I didn't. Let Bill Scheg have the honor.

Respectfully,

- Frank



Honor Flight Rochester Inc.
P.O. Box 23581
Rochester, NY 14692

Albion, NY
May 4, 2016

Dear members,

Thank you for including me on Mission 46 to Washington, D.C. Any expectations I had for the trip were exceeded many times over. Your membership's dedication to detail and doing things right were positively amazing. I can honestly say that I had a world class week and planned and carried out by a world class organization. Thank you again and may God bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Ted L

Mailbag: Letters from Veterans



I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN - I HAVE NEVER SPENT TWO DAYS IN MY LIFE LIKE "THE HONOR FLIGHT 46" TO WASHINGTON.

THE BALTIMORE AIRPORT WELCOME, ALL THE MONUMENTS, AND THE BIGGEST SURPRISE, OUR OWN ROCHESTER AIRPORT WELCOME. COOL!

THE HELP YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE GAVE, YOUR KINDNESS AND CARING WERE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

AS I LOOK ^{BACK} OVER THIS LETTER, I WISH I KNEW A BETTER WAY TO SAY THANK YOU - BUT BELIEVE ME IT COMES FROM MY HEART.

THANK YOU
John H

May 10, 2016

Re: Mission 46

Dear John Burns,

I want to thank you and all your staff for a great weekend. We were made to feel so special. It was one of the most organized and planned events I was ever a part of. No SNAFU.

All the team leaders were great and couldn't be more helpful and friendly.

Thanks for cleaning out my tear ducts.

Sincerely,

Bill M.

Green Team (The Best)

Bus #2

April 2016

Honor Flight:

I want to thank you for the Honor Flight you provided me on April 30th-May 1st. It was a trip I will remember for the rest of my life. I never expected that anyone would do this for me.

Your trip was perfect in all ways, especially the program and turnout at the end of the trip. I still can't believe it happened.

The trip itself was great, the monuments and the changing of the guard at Arlington. I will always remember.

Please thank all of the people that were involved. I could not have been better cared for.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W.

Again, Thank You

Mailbag: Letters from Veterans



May 14, 2016

Rochester Honor Flight, Inc.
PO Box 23581
Rochester, NY 14692

Attn: Peter Glennon
Larry Straasner
Laurie Palmer
& All Mission 46 Crew



Greetings Dear Friends,

It's been two weeks since our fantastic trip – and it still seems like a marvelous dream. Every detail was perfectly planned. I will be eternally grateful for the comradery. I wish I could thank each member of your team, many of whom operate behind the lines. There must be hundreds! A notable example being the creators of the lovely lap blankets. The reception at the airport was unbelievable and made me feel humble and proud to have been in military service. Thank you all for the most enjoyable and memorable weekend in my life! I also want to thank you for the pleasure and hospitality given my trip guardian, Patti Boundy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Delmont".

Ex-S/Sgt. Delmont (Jim) B
Trip Guardian, Patti B

PS: Thanks also for the “mail call” program. Each child’s letter was answered and a copy of pictures assembled from my daughter-in-law’s collection enclosed. It was nice to receive their thoughts and drawings. One sent a lovely picture of the WWII memorial at night.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- June 4-5 Fairport Canal Days
- June 14 *Pittsford Elementary School*
- June 20 Greece Historical Society Strawberry Festival
- July 18-23 Allegany County Fair
- July 19-23 Hemlock Fair
- July 30 "Road Captains Ride for Honor"
- July 31 The Ultimate Brasstacular TWO
- Aug 4 Deer Run Winery benefit
- Aug 5 Lakeshore Country Club Benefit Golf Tournament
- Aug 8 4th. Annual Frances McCabe Golf Tournament @ Locust Hill
- Sept 16 BOMA Golf Tournament
- Oct 8 Elvis night @ Barnard Exempt
- Nov 8 *Summerville Chatterbox Club*
- Nov 18 Skycoasters' Turkey Bash "Decades Party"

2016 Flying Schedule



- Mission 48 June 18-19
- Mission 49 Sept 10-11
- Mission 50 Oct 1-2
- Mission 51 Oct 22-24

Please visit our website for information about the Upcoming Welcome Homes!



A Message from Rich

Once again volunteers have been busier than ever supporting ground events organized and produced by others for the benefit of HFR. This is so important for our fundraising and helps keep us in the forefront. Larry Strassner of our Leadership Team heads up this effort. If you are aware of organizations that would like to know more about Honor Flight here is a link to reach Larry: <http://honorflightrochester.org/contact-honor-flight-events-team/>



Ground events cover a wide range of activities and locations. So far this year a partial list of where we have been include the: NIHOA vs Amerks Alumni Hockey Game, BOMA Breakfast (Building Owners Managers Association), Rochester Home & Garden Show, Legacy at Parklands, NYSHSA Equipment Show, Irondequoit Rotary Breakfast, Adult Recreation Association 10th Anniversary Banquet, Legacy at Clover Blossom, 6th Annual Victor Week, Ontario County Women’s Republican Club Breakfast, East View Mall, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball, St John’s Community Showcase, and Armed Forces Day Luncheon.

Later this summer, be on the lookout for “The Ultimate Brasstacular TWO” featuring Prime Time Brass at American Legion Post 468 in Greece on July 31st. This is followed by some great golfing opportunities at the Lakeshore Country Club 4th Annual Tournament on August 5th and the Frances McCabe 4th Annual Tournament at Locust Hill on August 8th.

As you know Health & Safety is of paramount importance on our missions. Through the energetic work of our highly talented and credentialed team, HFR has a very enviable record with the well-being of our veterans. Recently Sally Sackett, who has done an outstanding job leading our Health & Safety program for the past five years, has decided to pass along the baton. Fortunately for HFR, Sally will continue some involvement though in a background support role.

I am pleased to announce that earlier this spring Gina Ryan was appointed our new leader of Health & Safety. She began with Honor Flight in the summer of 2012 and has gone on six missions. Gina is an RN at Strong with 19 years of experience. Her daughter is a school teacher in Maine and her son is in the Navy at Virginia Beach.

Over the years at Honor Flight Rochester, literally hundreds and hundreds of volunteers have helped build the program to where we proudly are today. I want to express my thanks to each one of you whether currently volunteering or inactive. You deliver or delivered your best to our veterans. Of all the things that we do at such a high level, the one thing that stands out to me is the truly personalized interest provided by you to each veteran. They are so worthy.

Thank you volunteers.

Rich Stewart

**Have a question, comment, or something to share?
DROP US A LINE!**

VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com

**Thank a
Veteran!**

This newsletter is brought to you by the Volunteer Resource Committee.