



# HONOR FLIGHT®

## ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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### IN THIS EDITION:

#### LATEST NEWS

Photos from  
summer events

Nancy DaMore  
shares her  
experiences

#### VETERAN MEMORIES

Heather Carvill  
-Henry

#### MAIL BAG

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 Flying  
Schedule

Talks & Ground  
Events

#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Fall is Almost Here

This summer has been packed full of great Honor Flight Rochester events, getting our name and message out to veterans across the Rochester area! As the summer wraps up, we are preparing for our upcoming fall flying season. Calls are being made to veterans right now letting them know that the wait is over and they have been booked on one of our three upcoming missions!

**Mission 49: September 10-11**

**Mission 50: October 1-2**

**Mission 51: October 22-23**

So mark your calendars! As you see, we have a milestone mission coming up — in October of this year, we will fly our 50th mission! The fact that we have successfully flown this number of missions, and that we continue to grow and take increasing numbers of our heroes to see their memorials in Washington, D.C. is a testament to the awesome work of all of our volunteers.

We hope you continue to have a safe and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to seeing you at more of our upcoming events as we head toward the fall flights.



# Latest News

Photos from this Summer's events:



# Latest News

## Honor Flight Volunteer Shares Her Passion with St. John's Community

*Reprinted, with permission, from [www.stjohnsliving.org](http://www.stjohnsliving.org)*

They travel to and from Washington D.C. for an experience of a lifetime. Along the way they board planes and buses; travel across the city to visit war memorials and other landmarks; stay in hotels; and gather together for meals and to reminisce. When it is all over, they return to a hero's welcome, courtesy of hundreds of grateful spectators who pack the main terminal at the Rochester International Airport.

Honor Flight Rochester will complete a total of six missions like this in 2016. From beginning to end—each trip will only last about 33 hours. Yet to a person, every returning veteran will speak in amazement about how they were able to do so much in such a short time without experiencing even a hint of a problem. For this, the credit goes to the scores of volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to making everything run like clockwork. Without them, pulling off an initiative the size and scope of an Honor Flight Rochester mission would not be possible.



Nancy DaMore is one of those volunteers. In fact, she has worked almost every public welcome ceremony since she began contributing her time to Honor Flight Rochester four years ago. She typically works the long hallway from the arrivals gate to the terminal and she truly enjoys the opportunity to wish each veteran well and thank them personally for their service. As she puts it, “nobody can get past me without a hug.”



Mission 47—which saw a record number of veterans and their companions make the trip—touched down on the afternoon of May 22. Still recovering from a recent surgery, Nancy opted to manage a souvenir table just inside the room at the end of the parade route where the final ceremony is held. However, that did not stop her from seeking out each veteran to share that hug and a warm welcome home. The 60<sup>th</sup> and final vet to make it through the cheering crowd and over to Nancy for his greeting that day was a fellow resident from Brickstone by St. John's by the name of Conrad “Connie” Scheg.

Nancy and Connie meet up for a hug “I’ve been asked to go on this before,” explains Connie, who served in the Army during the early 1950s. “But I felt there were many others who deserved it more than I do.” Connie’s attitude is common among those wartime veterans who Honor Flight is hoping to bring along on future missions. He enlisted into the Army at the tail end of 1950 before completing basic training and then advanced infantry training. While he anticipated he would next head to fight in Korea, he was instead sent to Germany as part of NATO’s occupational force in Europe. Connie spent 15 months in the Company Clerk’s office in the town of Bad Kreuznach before heading back to the states. He never served in combat.

Neither did Walter Dickson, though like Connie, he was ready and willing to fight for his country. Drafted into the Army in February 1945 at 17 years old, Walter spent his last semester of high school training as a rifleman in Arizona and Texas. From there, Walter and his company of infantry replacements took a train to Seattle where they boarded a boat headed out to the Pacific. “We were going to be shipping out overseas--Saipan supposedly,” recalls Walter, who has lived with his wife Dolly in a cottage home at St. John's Meadows since 2014. They made it as far as Hawaii, where they landed on August 14, 1945. V-J Day.

(Cont'd, next page)



Walter (blue jacket) at Arlington National Cemetery

## Cont'd from previous

While she insists that it is not an official part of her volunteer work, Nancy has made it her personal mission to help “encourage” reluctant veterans like Connie and Walter to spend the weekend in Washington with others who answered the call of duty. She has seen enough faces of men and women who have returned from Honor Flight missions deeply affected by the experience to know that it is an opportunity that should not be passed up.

Nancy does not sell Honor Flight too hard and it often takes months to get qualifying veterans to fill out an application. She also offers to connect those considering the program with past participants who can help them feel more comfortable with making the trip. Through her efforts as an unofficial recruiter for Honor Flight Rochester, Nancy has now played a significant role in convincing eight residents from St. John’s to take the flight.

“Some friends of ours had gone, but I didn’t even want to think about going,” admits Walter. That was before Nancy began campaigning for him to think it over. “She talked me into it.” Nancy also helped make it possible for Walter’s friend Howard—another qualifying veteran who lives in Albany—to fly into Rochester and join him on the trip.

“She was one of the first people I met when I came here a year-and-a-half ago,” says Connie of Nancy. Connie’s mindset that Honor Flight was meant for those who he felt had served a more critical role in the war was at first difficult to turn around. “Nancy and I talked a little more. She said ‘you go- you earned it.’ So I signed up.”

Walter Dickson was on the first Honor Flight of 2016--Mission 46. Like the others before him who have needed to be persuaded that the program is meant for veterans just like them, he ended up thoroughly enjoying the experience. “It was really wonderful,” says Walter. “I can’t compare it to anything. The reception coming back was unbelievable.”



Connie parades through the airport terminal

To gauge Connie Scheg’s Honor Flight experience one would only need to watch him as he made his way through the terminal with other veterans to the welcome ceremony. Connie seemed to stop and talk to every person and group who greeted him. Some were friends and family on hand to support him, but he spent just as much time meeting and posing with complete strangers. “It was stupendous,” says Connie. “Before I was just going to go. Now I’m proud that I took part in it.”

These are the types of testimonials that Nancy DaMore loves to hear. Volunteering with Honor Flight Rochester has been a truly rewarding experience—both in her official capacity at the welcome ceremonies and as the unofficial voice of the organization at St. John’s. “It is perfect for me” she says proudly. “Out of every volunteer thing I have ever done, this has been the most fulfilling.”





## Volunteer Spotlight: Heather Carvill-Henry

Heather Carvill-Henry found out about Honor Flight through her Mom. Her maternal grandfather, who lived in Wilmington, NC, was going on a mission with his local hub and her Mom was collecting family letters and goodies for “Mail Call” in advance of his trip. Heather and other family members wrote letters for him and her Mom sent his favorite dessert from when he was young (lemon bars). Shortly thereafter, Heather’s friend Marianne Peckham mentioned that she had just fed breakfast to some local veterans, so Heather realized that we have a local Honor Flight hub.

Heather signed up as an HFR volunteer in November of 2011 to work on Send-Offs and Welcome Homes (*right*, with friend Fred Worden from MI 48). She has only missed two missions since she joined. Heather’s favorite part of volunteering is “seeing the veterans smile and tear up at Welcome Home—it gets me every time”. Volunteering for HFR has become a family affair, with Heather’s husband Bobby, sister (Amber Johnson), and Bobby’s sister (Laura Helder) all participating.

Heather has traveled on three missions thus far, including as a solo guardian for Henry Mont on MI 30 and as an assistant on MI 40 (*below left*) and MI 47. Her paternal grandfather, Bill Carvill, traveled on MI 33 and Heather’s sister Amber served as his guardian (*below right*).



Heather is now in charge of Social Media for HFR, and her primary role is maintaining the official HFR Facebook (FB) Page. It is quite fitting that on her HFR application, she wrote “My grandfather’s personal story inspired me. The more personal stories released to the public, the better. More people will see what an important mission Honor Flight has”. For more details about Heather and our FB page, please see Rich’s column in this issue.

In addition to her other HFR jobs, Heather volunteers at numerous Ground Events such as the Skycoasters Turkey Bash, the 2016 Geneseo National Warplane Museum Air Show (*right*, with Bobby, Tim and Sharon), and the upcoming Ultimate Brasstacular Two Benefit Concert.

Heather has worked as a physical therapist at Rochester Sports & PT in Greece for 14 years. She also volunteers for her neighborhood association (Bensonhurst). Heather and Bobby have been married for 11 years. In their spare time, they enjoy riding motorcycles and boating with friends as well as playing with their two “rescue mutts”.

Heather, thanks for your hard work and dedication to HFR!



By Karen Zilora



# Mailbag: Letters from Veterans



*The Weekend of May 21 & 22 was one I will never forget! I can't thank all of you enough!! It makes me realize why I served our great country.*

*Ross C.*

*Honor Flight 47 – Thank you so much to all the great Volunteers, Veterans and those who made Honor flight 47 a great success. Also, there are not words to express the great reception received at our Homecoming at the Rochester Airport. It was fabulous. Thank you again.*

*Muriel S.*

To whom it may concern:

I was a recent member of Honor Flight #47 and wish to thank all involved in this wonderful program that is run with great efficiency. I am enclosing a check as a payment forward so another veteran can experience the trip as many hundreds already have. Thank all of the staff for a great program.

Richard P.

Dear John & Crew,

What an amazing weekend on the Honor flight. It couldn't have been better. Everything went like clockwork, and, everything was first class, transportation, lodging, food & booze. The care of caring you and your volunteers gave was extra ordinary. I'll never forget it.

Sincere thanks to all! Tom W.

*Thank you so very much for volunteering your time with the Honor Flight program. The time I had with the other veterans, and my son, will be with me for the rest of my life. This was and outstanding welcome home, which I never got on my discharge from the Army and Korea in 1954. Thanks again.,*

*George S.*

*I had such a good time on the Honor flight May 21-22. Something I will never forget with my daughter Tracey. I would like to make a donation to help for more flights in the future. So many wonderful volunteers are involved. Thanks for all of your work.*

*Gene K.*

*The Honor Flight Team are a wonderful reflection of God's special love! Thanks Very Much! Many, many thanks for making Mission 47 such a great memory for my dad and his son. Your dedication, organization & good cheer is unmatched. God Bless you All.*

*Mark R.*

Dear Honor Flight Rochester:

This note is to thank you for providing my Honor Flight experience. It means a lot to have my service recognized. Thank you to my chaperone, Sharon H. and to all of you involved in sponsoring Honor Flight.

In appreciation, Charles S.

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Aug 3 *Ferris Hills at West Lake*
- Aug 4 Deer Run Winery Benefit
- Aug 5 Lakeshore Country Club Benefit  
Golf Tournament
- Aug 8 4th. Annual Frances McCabe Golf  
Tournament @ Locust Hill
- Aug 12 *Harris Beach "Rally for Veterans  
Charity Riders"*
- Aug 14 Harris Beach Pizza Party & Bike Run
- Aug 31 *Village Square at Unity*
- Sept 11 Blossom Road Pub Fundraiser
- Sept 13 BOMA Golf Tournament
- Sept 21 *Park Presbyterian Church*
- Oct 8 Elvis night @ Barnard Exempt
- Oct 21 Buffalo DAR Gala Event
- Nov 9 *Summerville Chatterbox Club*
- Nov 11 Stars and Stripes 5k Run
- Nov 18 Skycoasters' Turkey Bash "Decades  
Party"

\*Talks in italics



Thank  
You

## 2016 Flying Schedule



- Mission 49 Sept 10-11
- Mission 50 Oct 1-2
- Mission 51 Oct 22-23


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

**Support our**





**Local War Veterans**

Thursday, August 4th • 6-9pm  
at **DEER RUN WINERY**  
3772 West Lake Rd. • Geneseo  
FREE Concert by **Kickstart Rumble**  
Food by **3 Legged Pig**

Donations will be accepted all evening for



Give our local heroes the opportunity to visit their memorial

# A Message from Rich

I hope your summers are going well and thank you to all who are volunteering. So far in June and July you have represented HFR at the Mercy High School Volunteers Fair, Fairport Canal Days, Valor Day in Pittsford, Masonic Service Bureau Presentation, Avon American Legion Food Truck Rodeo, Greece Historical Society Strawberry Festival, Victor Honor Flight Week Town Hall Presentation, Greece Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast Presentation, National Warplane Museum Geneseo Air Show, Allegheny County Fair, Hemlock Little Worlds Fair, Sky Rovers Remote Control Aircraft Club, Combined 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations for Wegmans & Charlotte's Annexation, Chili American Legion Riders Poker Run and the Ultimate Brasstacular Two. More is scheduled for August. Event coverage by our volunteers is so important. Interestingly when I am not slated for an event, I have found that HFR's Facebook or Shutterfly pages may carry some photos of what I missed.



Many of you know Heather Henry who heads up our official Honor Flight Rochester Facebook. She has built this open-to-the-public page to the impressive level of 2300 followers. Heather keeps it current with an array including HFR events, veteran alumni stories, facts related to the eras they served and more. If you have questions, she tracks down answers or may direct you to our website or expanding HFR Shutterfly page.

What you may not know is that during each mission, Heather provides real-time updates and photos through Facebook even before our troops are welcomed home. For families and friends back in Rochester or anywhere, this technology offers the next best thing to being there in Washington with your heroes and loved ones. If you have not yet signed up for Facebook, you are missing out on a very timely and entertaining way to stay closer to HFR. In fact, Heather Henry has said what many of us feel:

*"It is such an honor for me to assist Honor Flight Rochester... When a family member can see a picture... they share in the spirit of the trip... and know their veteran is taken care of and being honored with the trip of a lifetime."*

Our veterans are so worthy. Please join me in thanking Heather Henry for all that she does with Facebook.

For those of you who are yearning for more photographs, please go online to our official Shutterfly site at: [honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com](http://honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com). Many thanks are due to all our wonderful volunteer photographers for their great shots. In particular, thank you to Jen Wiley for sharing her expertise and doing a bang up job administering the site. It is organized for your viewing ease with captions for three separate categories, as follows:

- Home Page – Showing photos from most all of our missions
- HFR Events – For sanctioned "Ground events" including "Speakers bureau" scheduled thru HFR
- Other Events – Not sponsored nor produced by HFR but attended by our alums

It is heartwarming to see so many orange shirts proudly worn by our veterans in these photos. Thank you volunteers.

Best regards,

Rich

**Have a question, comment, or something to share?**

**DROP US A LINE!**

**[VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com](mailto:VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com)**

**Thank a  
Veteran!**

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