



# HONOR FLIGHT®

## ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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OF THE YEAR

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## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Pat Mason who won the Col. Woody Mench Volunteer of The Year award for 2017. Pat was so generous with his time and talents. Because of his dedication and hard work coordinating the Welcome Home volunteers, Honor flight is a seamless and smooth operation for all of the veterans.

“ I am honored to receive this award although I maintain there are many other volunteers in Honor Flight Rochester that deserve this more than I do. I am truly honored to be a small part of an organization that does so much for our Veterans. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and a special thank you to my immediate bosses, Jen Wylie and John Burns,” says Pat regarding his award.

Honor Flight Rochester's prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award was renamed in 2014 for Co-founder Colonel Woody Mench who passed away the preceding year. Woody served as our first Treasurer and subsequently President and Chairman of the Board. Woody had a passion for the military and all veterans. He was specifically concerned for veterans being remembered for their service and sacrifices. He was instrumental in HFR's rapid rise to becoming one of the premier hubs in the country. Our selected Volunteers of the Year all share Woody's passions.





*Mission 57*  
*Photos*  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**2017**



# FUNDRAISING

## Three Heads Brewing—November 2017

Three Heads Brewing in Rochester, NY hosted a Happy Hour for Honor Flight Rochester on Veterans Day. **The event had an amazing turn out and the Happy Hour raised enough money to send three Veterans to their Honor Flight Trip.** Many thanks to Heather Henry, who coordinated this event with Three Heads, the volunteers who sold raffle tickets, collected donations and talked up Honor Flight!



*Three Heads Brewing  
Fundraiser*



## ReconBOOST



ReconBOOST is an organization created by two kids, Barron and Berkley Smith, with a mission to help boost support and raise funds for charities aiming to assist those within their local community.

60 children helped out with the ReconBOOST Event. The children made wreaths out of grape vines, decorated and sold them to the friends and people in their community. **They raised enough money to send two Veterans on their 'Honor Flight'.**

Way to go, Barron and Berkley! (Pictured in the photo with black t-shirts and ReconBOOST printed on them. )



# FUNDRAISING

## Turkey Bash



The Skycoasters and Gary Lewis and the Playboys turned up the heat for this November 2017 Turkey Bash held at the Rochester Convention center. A fun night was had by all to support Honor Flight Rochester!



## Webster– Fairport Elks Lodge

The Webster-Fairport Elks Lodge hosted a wonderful breakfast with veterans from the Canandaigua VA. BPOE Exalted Ruler Thomas Steele presented a generous check to Honor Flight Rochester's Rich Stewart and Larry Strassner along with flown veterans Roger Hill and Gary Leavitt. **This outstanding support from the Elks will fund four veterans on their "trip of a lifetime."** At HFR we leave no Veteran behind.



# ROLL CALL

Lots Of Volunteers with Honor Flight Rochester! Check out who's who and stop by and welcome the new faces!

## Board of Directors

Peter Glennon, Chairman/Counsel  
Rich Stewart, President  
Jeff Gould, Director

## Leadership

**Richard Stewart**  
President



<b>John Burns</b> VP OFFICER <i>Operations</i>	<b>Frank Vavrick</b> VP OFFICER <i>Treasury &amp; Purchasing</i>	<b>Rick Meier</b> VP OFFICER <i>Media Public Relations</i>	<b>Dave Timmons</b> OFFICER <i>Secretary</i>	<b>Larry Strassner</b> <i>Events Speakers</i>	<b>Jennifer Wylie</b> <i>Veteran Experience</i>	<b>Lee Riggall</b> <i>Web Site &amp; Database</i>	<b>Greg Foust</b> VP OFFICER <i>Volunteers</i>
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<b>Kirk Nelson</b> John Peckham <i>Health-Safety</i>	<b>Elaine Fahselt</b> <i>Donations &amp; Mail</i>	<b>Neil Fagenbaum</b> <i>Media</i>	<b>George Haines</b> <b>Jim Beebe</b> <i>Veteran Liaison</i>	<b>Pat Mason</b> <i>Welcome Home Vol. Coordinator</i>	<b>Greg Foust</b> <i>Veteran Visits /Books</i>
<b>Ann Marie Race</b> <i>School Liaison/ Mail Call</i>	<b>Marianne Peckham</b> <b>Debbie Carney</b> <i>Welcome Home Merch.</i>	<b>Heather Henry</b> <i>Facebook Admin</i>	<b>Mary Beauchamp</b> <i>WH Veteran Not Flying Coord.</i>	<b>Nina Piccini</b> <b>Lee Begy</b> <i>Newsletter</i>	
<b>Elmer Brown</b> <b>Michelle Turner</b> <i>Departures</i>	<b>TBD</b> <i>Quartermaster</i>		<b>Welcome Home Assistants</b>	<b>Jean Kelly</b> <b>Anna Alger</b> <i>Volunteer Kickoff</i>	
<b>Jean Kelly</b> <i>Backpacks</i>			<b>Photographers</b>	<b>Rob Contestable</b> <i>Survey Monkey</i>	
<b>Carole Kohler</b> <i>Name Tags</i>				<b>Elmer Brown</b> <i>Committee Support Vol. Orientation</i>	
<b>John Peckham</b> <i>Mission Safety Equipment</i>				<b>Steve Wendell</b> <i>Veterans Mailing</i>	
				<b>Cindy Rickett</b> <i>Living History</i>	
				<b>Karen Zilora</b> <i>Vol. Orientation</i>	

And all our dedicated volunteers participating on teams!



Honor Flight Rochester, Inc....Honoring America's Veterans C101 (rev 1/22/18)



# Mailbag: Letters from Veterans



Laura Johnson convinced me to take the trip along with a couple of friends. I did resist at first. I have never met so many great Americans in such a short time as on 9-9 and 9-10-17. When people shook your hand, you could tell they meant it. Incredible trip by incredible volunteers.

Thanks,

Bill M.

*Thank you ever so much for affording me the most memorable experience of my life by allowing me to partake of this awesome trip with other Veterans to Washington, D.C. Myself and my guardian wish to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the many kindnesses and thoughtfulness that was shown to us by the terrific STAFF members assigned to us. I can hardly wait to share my several heartfelt moments with the Dance Group who constantly encouraged me to go.*

*Thank you again.*

*'Dancing Tom'*

Many thanks to the Many, Many volunteers who made the Sept 9/10 flight such a great success. I am not sure I can single out anyone involved for my thanks – they were all terrific!!!! From the ground crew who gave us breakfast and got us organized and ready for the flight – to those who got us on the airplane – to the great crew who accompanied us and made us feel comfortable and were always there for us with a smile, laugh, and help. It always seemed like we were on the first trip for them, even though many of them had been on many of the 55 flights before. I know from experience that there are challenges and you all handled it superbly – again, Many, Many thanks – what an experience – I am sure my son, who escorted me will remember this as a once-in-a-lifetime event. And I can't forget the homecoming. WOW!! So many people – all with smiles and sincerely happy to welcome us home.

Mark F.



There are no words to express how thankful and grateful we are to the marvelous staff for the excellent job everyone does with Honor Flight Rochester. Honor Flight 57 was an experience I will never forget and it was top notch. The website displaying pictures of the trip enabled my wife to be a 'part' and see exactly where we were.

We are forever grateful,

Jim & Dave S.

# Upcoming Events

# 2018 Flying Schedule

## Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Mar 9 Fairport Band with Harmonica Pete
- Mar 10 American Red Cross Military Family Salute
- Mar 21 Volunteer Kick Off
- Mar 24-25 Rochester Home and Garden Show
- Apr 21 APD Casino Night
- May 11 Rochester Lilac Festival



- Mission 58 April 14-15
- Mission 59 TBD
- Mission 60 TBD

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

[www.HonorFlightRochester.org](http://www.HonorFlightRochester.org)



## President's Column

Our Tenth Anniversary is upon us. The years went by quickly. The first mission flew on the weekend of October 18-19, 2008 and was comprised of ten veterans, ten guardians and three in support. In the picture below, I recognize two, Co-Founder Kim Gould (front row far left) and her husband Co-Founder & Board Member Jeff Gould (last row fourth from right.) God bless all who traveled on that inaugural mission. None would have guessed that their enterprise would be thriving ten years after with 57 missions tallied and still counting.



Success has many fathers. One was D&C's Mark Hare in July, 2008 who wrote an article urging Rochesterians interested in creating a local Honor Flight hub to contact Vince Hope. Earlier that year Vince had traveled on a Lone Eagle Flight with his father Tom. From Mark Hare's column, the very next day seven reached out. The first email was from Anthony DiMattia, followed by Colonel Woody Mench, Major Peter Glennon, then Jeff & Kim Gould and Laurie & Rick Palmer. These very talented people stepped forward and the rest is now our fabled history. From the initial group five became Co-Founders including Vince Hope, Colonel Woody Mench, Major Peter Glennon (current Board Chairman), Kim Gould and Jeff Gould.

So much has been accomplished over ten years with 2725 veterans flown totally funded by the generosity of our communities. Still in many ways we have barely scratched the surface. HFR's geographic area is nine counties populated by 1.3 million of which 78,000 are veterans. Half of these veterans are 65+ so 39,000 match our profile but only a small fraction has flown.

The generosity from the greater Rochester area funds Honor Flight missions. We leave no Veteran behind. Listed here are ground events and presentations which pay for our missions. Since late last summer we greatly appreciate the support from: Lake Shore Country Club Golf Tournament, Harris Beach Rally for Veterans Riders, Braemar Golf Tournament, Webster Garlic Festival, BOMA Hole-in-One at Ridgemont Golf Club, Blossom Road Pub Annual Event, Tahou Golf Tournament at Greystone, Lalla Rockh Masonic Temple, Garlock Technologies Veterans Luncheon, Fleet Feet VeteRun, Town of Brighton Proclamation, Three Heads Brewery Happy Hour, Sky Coasters Turkey Bash, Elvis Night at Barnards, LeRoy Women of the Moose, Chili American Legion Post Riders Poker Run, and the Webster-Fairport Elks Veterans Breakfast. Thank you to all our supporters!



And thank you to our volunteers for all you do to make our Missions so special for our veterans.

All the best,

Rich Stewart  
President

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.**