



**WE LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND**

# HONOR FLIGHT® ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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## VOLUNTEER KICK OFF

Many thanks to Anna Alger and Dan Peck from the Legacy at Fairways (Victor) for donating delicious sandwiches and cheeses for our annual Volunteer Kickoff on March 21, 2018. We are very grateful to the Greece American Legion Post #468 and particularly to Post Commander Mark Ostrander and Ron Brooks for donating the use of their facility and for waiving their customary cleaning fee. We really appreciate it!

Thanks also to the Volunteer Resource Committee which planned the Kickoff and to those who helped set up and take down, including Steve Wendell, Norma Brown, Elmer Brown, Nicole Brown, Randy Prader, Jean Kelly, Mary Masciangelo, Tommy Borrelli, Marie Wraight, Natalie Kelly, Lisa Larkins, Rick Meier, Dave Timmons, and Karen Zilora.

Also, much appreciation to John Burns for making a last minute store run for us; to Elmer Brown for serving as M.C.; to Bonnie McDowell, Brittany Ramsay, and

Erica Smith for singing the national anthem; and to Jen Wylie and John Peckham for setting up the slide show.

Sorry to anyone who has been omitted from these lists!



# WELCOME HOME MISSION 58!

On Sunday, April 15, 2018 we welcomed home the heroes of Mission 58. This mission included 56 veterans from WWII, Korean War, Cold War and the Vietnam War. Thank you to all of the Veterans and Guardians of Mission 58 for a wonderful trip!



# WELCOME HOME MISSION 58!



**WE LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND**



## Veteran Memories—Charles Price



Charles Price, life member and historian of Pennington-Moye Post # 9251, the only minority VFW in Western NY, kept hearing about Honor Flight Rochester on TV and in *D&C* articles but wasn't sure why their VFW members weren't getting called for flights. He talked to their Commander who called the County Commander who got the requisite veteran applications for them, and Charles filled out the paperwork for himself and two fellow veterans.

He and his friend Fred Jentons were both called for Mission 7 (May 2010) and both had a wonderful

time. Charles says that he and Fred “started Kindergarten together, graduated from high school, joined the military, and served 38 and 40 years respectively”. The photo above shows them at the M7 banquet.

After he got on the MI 7 plane in Rochester, Charles kept looking at one of the other veterans, Tom Bailey, thinking that he looked familiar, and Tom kept looking at Charles as well. Eventually they figured out that they had played basketball with each other back in 1937! Having the opportunity to become reacquainted with Tom is Charles' favorite memory of his trip. Tom is the tall gent next to Charles in the group



photo and is 2nd row, far right in the basketball team photo.



Charles and most of the men from his Madison High School graduating class of 1942 enlisted in the service. He was assigned to the Army Air Corps and completed training as a Tuskegee Airman. Unfortunately, one of his eyes was weaker than the other, so they sent him to Signal Corps School training in the use of the teletype, EE-8 telephone, radar, and cryptographic machines. After finishing his training, he was to be assigned to the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group (Tuskegee Airmen), but was given leave first. His mother received a teletype message telling him to report to Langley Field. Unfortunately, he missed the sailing of the 332<sup>nd</sup> by one day, so he was reassigned to the Signal

Construction Battalion and sailed to Oran, Algiers.

In Sicily, Charles' outfit met up with the 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (part of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group) and took part in the mainland invasion including bombing at Salerno, Naples, and Anzio. He was eventually reunited with his original 1000<sup>th</sup> Signal Company attached to the 332<sup>nd</sup>. Charles was on a ship in the Straights of Gibraltar heading to Japan when the second atomic bomb was dropped. After his service, he joined the reserves as a military intelligence specialist and retired after 38 years of service with a rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4.

Charles was hired by RPD in 1947, becoming its first black officer. He rose through the ranks, becoming a detective and eventually a captain before his 1983 retirement. RPD gave Charles and two fellow officers the Medal of Valor, its highest award, for rescuing a fellow officer during a 1981 bank robbery.



Charles and his wife Pauline, a retired beautician, have two grown daughters and four grandchildren. He is a member of the 1941 Historical Aircraft Group (HAG) and the Geriatric Pilots Association and is a frequent speaker on topics such as the Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo soldiers. Charles' grandfather (Sgt. Adam Price) was at Appomattox when General Lee signed the surrender ending the Civil War.

# FUNDRAISING

## Webster Thomas HS National Honor Society



The Webster Thomas HS National Honor Society held a Ping Pong tournament on behalf of Honor Flight Rochester! They raised enough money to send a Veteran to Washington! Thank You!

B-Side Bar



## B-Side Bar

*On March 9th B-side Bar in Fairport had a HFR fundraiser featuring our own "Harmonica" Pete Dupre. Not only was it a great fundraiser, but we received several Veteran applications!*

# FUNDRAISING

## Stoneyard Brewing Company

The Stoneyard Brewing Company in Brockport, NY hosted a Fundraiser for Honor Flight Rochester on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The event had an amazing turn out and raised enough money to send EIGHT Veterans on a future Honor Flight mission. Many thanks to Lee Begy who coordinated this event with Jay Nichols; the owner of the Stoneyard. HFR volunteers sold raffle tickets, collected donations and talked up Honor Flight!



# FUNDRAISING

## Rochester Home and Garden Show

On Mar. 24th. and 25th. we were at the Rochester Home and Garden show. We got a ton of exposure, received new Veteran applications and raised money sending two Veterans to Washington.



## STATS FOR UPCOMING MISSION 59

Mission 59: Sunday May 6th . 2018

Our Southwest Flight Arrives Approximately 12:15 PM

This flight has 58 veterans who served during World War II , Korea, Cold War Era and

Vietnam. We have flown over 2700 Veterans to date.

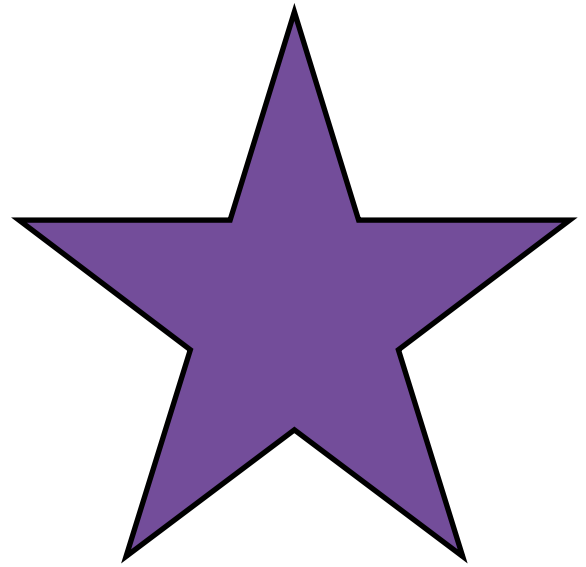
17 Navy      28 Army      4 Marines      9 Air Force

Photos taken by Honor Flight Photographers can be viewed and downloaded free at

[www.honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com](http://www.honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com)



## MAILBAG: LETTERS FROM VETERANS



### "Honor Flight" Staff,

I was both awed and humbled, by the depth to which your staff went in caring for the veterans you escorted to Washington DC April 14 & 15. I had never, in my 20 years of service or the 44 years since been treated with such respect for my time in uniform. The thoughtfulness that went into the planning, scheduling and individual arrangements was amazing. The humor expressed by John, Jerry and Rich on bus #3 kept the ride times as fun as possible. Steve and Sally headed up a terrific crew of caretakers to handle all of our individual needs. Thank you all!

Steve, I know you folks have heard all this before, but as my Drill Instructor used to say - you will hear it many times !!

My son Chris and I had a great time on the Mission! **As a "Cold War Vet"** it made me feel much better about my time in the Air Force, not having been in any combat zones!! Like you folks say - when you raise your hand to enter the service, that is all it takes. You could go anywhere!!





# Upcoming Events

## Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- May 2 Irondequoit Rotary Club Speaking Engagement
- May 4-11 Victor Annual HFR
- May 5 Kiwanas Pancake Breakfast
- May 11-20 Rochester Lilac Festival
- May 18 Out Alliance Speaking Engagement
- May 18 **St. John's Lutheran Speaking Engagement**
- May 27 Irondequoit Parade
- June 1-2 American Warrior Concert
- June 1-3 Fairport Canal Days
- June 18 Greece Strawberry Festival
- July 14-15 Geneseo Air Show
- July 27-28 Summit ROC the Taste
- July 19 Brasstacular
- July TBD York Valley Fest 5k and Golf Tournament

# 2018 Flying Schedule



Mission 59	May 5-6
Mission 60	June 16-17
Mission 61	TBD

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

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



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Making It Happen!

This year once again Honor Flight Rochester will create six meaningful and unforgettable weekends for our senior veterans by giving “our all” to cover every detail. This is truly about showing respect and paying thanks. The best sentiments I heard were by Jeff Miller cofounder of our national Network who said “You cannot buy what we do” and “It is an honor to spend this time with our heroes who created history.”



Throughout the spring and fall flying seasons, our volunteers, community partners and supporting families pull together. Each volunteer can and does make a big difference and we are grateful. With our community partners we are proud to announce four new relationships covering both generous support financially and unique in-kind services. Thank you Karpus Family Foundation. Thank you ESL Charitable Foundation. Thank you KeyBank Foundation. Their contributions will fund the flights for several dozen veterans. Donations large and small are needed to offset our substantial costs of transporting over 300 veterans annually; now running ten years with no end in sight. And further, we want to express thanks and gratitude to Monroe Wheelchair for offering their specialty expertise and resources in wheelchairs. This is so important for veteran safety and a very big help to HFR.

As has happened often in the past initial participation by volunteers and guardians of Honor Flight Rochester grows into larger support such as provided so far this year from Karpus, ESL, KeyBank and Monroe Wheelchair. Thank you to these fine organizations.

Also “Making It Happen” are all our dedicated volunteers. In particular I would like to recognize two who have assumed new responsibilities. Please join me in welcoming Bonnie Hermanson to the recently created position of Quartermaster and Steve Wendell to take on the Speakers Bureau. Bonnie reports to Frank Vavrick and Steve reports to Larry Strassner.

The already high number of Ground Events and Speakers Bureau engagements continues to climb. Here are some scheduled events from late winter and spring which fund our missions: Warsaw Loyal Order of the Moose, Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter #20, Webster Thomas Nat'l Honor Society Ping Pong Fundraiser, Xerox Pioneer Club, Ted's Tackle Conesus Lake Sportsmen's Club Frostbite Fishing Derby, Fairport B-Side with Harmonica Pete, American Red Cross Military Family Salute, Rochester Home & Garden Show, APD Casino Night by Victor Legion Post 931, Stoneyard Brewing Company, Victor Annual HFR Week, Greece Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast and the Lilac Festival.

Thank you volunteers, community partners and supporting families!

Sincerely,

Rich Stewart  
President

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.