



HONOR FLIGHT Rochester Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2013

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WOODY'S
COLUMN



The 2nd Annual Stars & Stripes 5K VeteRun was held on November 12th at Mendon Ponds Park.

The race included many age divisions for racers, prizes for overall male and female winners, and a Kids' Boot Camp-Style Fun Run.

Walkers and four-legged friends were also welcome!

Proceeds from the VeteRun benefited both Honor Flight Rochester and the Honeoye Falls Veterans' Memorial Fund.



The goals of the Veteran Committee were to:

- Honor our Veterans by highlighting their efforts and supporting Honor Flight Rochester
- Facilitate a Fun Community Event for all Ages
- Promote Health and Fitness

As you can see from these photos provided by Kathy and Paul Hanson, everyone had a great time and the weather cooperated beautifully!

Tributes to Bill Battey

I met Bill Battey a few years ago when I volunteered as a photographer for Honor Flight. Bill, who was also a volunteer photographer, quickly took me under his wing and showed me where the prime positions were for taking the best photos as the veterans departed the airplane. "Stand here...make sure the nametag is showing...make sure the guardian knows where to stand, etc..." He ran a tight ship and with that he got great results.

From our conversations while we waited for the plane to come in I could tell he took great pride in his work. I think it was the Marine in him. He wanted to be sure that every WWII veteran received their photos, either through snail mail or hand-delivered. It meant something to them as it meant something to Bill. It meant memories and reminders of the past and the present and how they have intertwined after all these years in honor...of them.

I hope I can speak for everyone in saying, "Thanks for the memories, Bill."

Petrena Hayes

Bill was always the first one at the airport for Welcome Homes. No matter how hard I tried (and I always arrive a minimum of two hours before flight arrival time) I could never beat him!! He'd be right there every time, immediately asking what he could do to help.

He was so dedicated to photography, especially taking pictures of the veterans. Such a perfectionist but, as a result, thousands of veterans and their families have priceless memories of their loved ones.

I will most definitely miss Bill. It will really sink in when I arrive on April 21st and he's NOT there.

Linda Frey



I am truly going to miss Bill at the Welcome Homes. There was never a doubt that Bill was going to be there taking photos of all the veterans that just went on the best mission of their lives, setting in the middle aisle so he was prepared for whatever snap of a picture he could get. I'm sad he will not be with us any more in body but he will always be with us in spirit!! R.I.P. Bill!

Elaine Fahselt

Bill started volunteering in the early days of Honor Flight Rochester. For those of you who did not know Bill, he was the person who took all of those wonderful pictures of the veterans as they came off the plane on Sundays. After Bill took the pictures he would bring them to my house so that we could distribute them back to the veterans on each Mission. As great as the pictures were, Bill was always worried that they were not good enough. He also sent copies to all of the dignitaries who were in the pictures! I have gotten numerous messages from veterans and their families about how much they appreciated those pictures as a wonderful memento from their trip! When I relayed this to Bill he seemed to take great comfort in that.

Bill was also a very proud Marine! He would ask me each trip to point out any Marines on the trips and as they came off the plane, Bill placed a Marine Corps sticker on their id case. We often joked about Bill being a Marine and I being a Navy veteran! Bill will be sorely missed by the Honor Flight Rochester Organization, and I will miss someone who had become a dear friend! Semper Fi Marine!

John Burns

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



Volunteer Spotlight: Elaine Fahselt



Elaine “Scooter” Fahselt has been a volunteer for Honor Flight Rochester since February, 2011. Her neighbor, Sally Sackett, head of our Health & Safety Team, invited Elaine to go to the airport to help welcome WWII veterans home from their trip to DC. Elaine was immediately hooked, although leery about making another commitment—she already volunteers 4 days per week year-round as Ticket Coordinator for the Wegmans LPGA Championship golf tournament. However, Elaine thought she might be able to do a little paperwork from home and got started by helping out with the TeleThon in March, 2011.

Today, Elaine collects all of HFR’s mail, tracks all of the donations that come in (via checks, Paypal, and cash) and sends thank you notes to the donors (organizations and individuals). Elaine says she “loves reading the letters that come in from the veterans and their families thanking HFR for making such a profound impact on their lives and giving them an awesome experience they will remember forever”. She is also very happy that she can share some of them with you via our Mail Bag column. Amazingly, Elaine says that she sends out about 100 thank-yous per month, and recently notified a veteran’s family of 47 individual donations that had been made in his memory!

Elaine also serves on the Leadership Team for HFR, works the donation table at Welcome Homes, and is a member of our Speakers’ Bureau. She also served as a guardian for a veteran from Camillus on Mission 24 and says “It was one of the most rewarding experiences of her life.” Her vet was a joy to be with, particularly after a kiss from Mrs. Dole put him on cloud nine!

Elaine enjoys being “part of an organization that is honoring veterans and showing them how much we as U. S. citizens appreciate all that they did and the sacrifice they made for us.” She also appreciates the opportunity to “put a smile on the faces of veterans who have been on a mission to Washington.” You may notice Elaine standing for most of the military anthems at an HFR event in honor of her 2 brothers and 3 nephews who between them, have the Marines, Navy, and Army covered!



In her “spare” time, Elaine enjoys golf, riding on the back of Harleys, traveling (Maine, Vermont, and California are favorite destinations), and spending time with her Bichon, “EJ”. She also loves to babysit her 3 year-old godchild, Maddie, and is looking forward to spending more time with her when she soon becomes a big sister!

Elaine is third from the left in this photo of Welcome Home volunteers. Many thanks to Elaine for her service to Honor Flight Rochester!

Upcoming Events

2013 Volunteer Kickoff

Thursday, March 7 (snow date Mar 12)
Fairport VFW 300 Macedon Center Road (Rte 31F)

Doors open at 6 pm

This year we will have a light supper of pasta with marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, coffee/tea and dessert.

Please watch for the SurveyMonkey and RSVP to confirm your attendance!

Nazareth College Office of Veterans' Affairs

and Prime Time Brass Present a

Benefit Concert for HFR

Saturday, April 27th

Nazareth College Arts Center

Tickets: \$12 Pre-Sale, \$15 at the door

Box Office: (585) 389-2170

boxoffice.naz.edu

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Feb 11 Independent Living for Seniors
- Mar 9 Gates Chili "Hike for Heroes"
- Mar 13 Holy Name of Jesus Church
- Mar 13 Vets Club (Hudson Ridge Towers)
- Mar 18 2013 NYSRPS State Conference
- Mar 21 Women's Club of Webster
- Apr 3 Rotary Club of LeRoy
- Apr 14 Amerks Boosters Euchre for HFR
- May 17 U of R Women's Club
- May 23 Brighton Memorial Library
- May 27 Fairport Memorial Day Parade
- Jun 1-2 Fairport Canal days

2013 Spring Flying Schedule



Apr 20/21	Mission 27
May 18/19	Mission 28
Jun 15/16	Mission 29

Letters from Veteran Families



"My Honor Flight to Washington exceeded my wildest expectations! The many volunteers were helpful, courteous, and caring, and the whole operation was flawless.

The tour of the memorials was very emotional and awe-inspiring. Each one was special in its own way. The letters from school children were an added bonus. We have read them over and over.

My daughter and I will fondly remember this trip for the rest of our lives! Thank you for this wonderful experience and God bless you all."

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.



Keep 'Em Flying

Happy New Year to all the beautiful people in Honor Flight Rochester!!!

I wish I were on the beach in Naples, Florida, writing this newsletter column. Can it get any colder than this?!

Well, we're off and running for 2013 with a lot of changes in store. Our first flight is in April. We have about 200 WWII veterans on our list which may fill up the first three flights but there is no doubt we will be accelerating our review of Korean Veteran applications. You will start to notice an increase in our spot radio announcements for other veterans. As we have been saying, we are continuing our program onto Korea and then probably to Viet Nam and so forth. Not all hubs are doing this but we feel we have the financial and people support to make it happen.

As we make this shift, your leadership team is deeply involved in making changes to bring our promotional material, car decals, hats, clothing, banners, etc into a post WWII era. You will start to see more generic labeling on all our merchandise and an improvement in quality. Needless to say, the team is very busy in putting this together. We are also switching airlines to Southwest since they are taking over for AirTran and our first flight in April will be with them.

We haven't said much about the Board activities but we are looking at a way to do continuous financial support and to add at least one person to the Board.

We have our Volunteer Kickoff Meeting coming up soon at the VFW in Fairport, the Benefit Concert on April 27th at Nazareth, and who knows what else.

Let's have another great year, and don't forget that Valentine's Day is closing in. Take your best girl or guy out and thank them for the support they provide you in making this program happen.

Woody



Have a question, comment, or something to share?

DROP US A LINE!

VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com

Thank
a
Veteran!