



HONOR FLIGHT Rochester Newsletter

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Latest News

It's time to get geared up for another flying season! Please see page 5 for the dates for all of our 2013 missions.

On page 6, you will find a recent HFR press release (courtesy of Rick Meier) regarding HFR's plans to include Korea-era veterans on future missions. WWII veterans and seriously ill veterans of any era will still receive priority in flying, and we currently project that we will take at least 4 full flights of WWII veterans this year. Please include Korea-era vets when you are spreading the word about HFR, although they likely won't fly until 2014!

"I wanted to let everyone know that we lost Ron Chesterton, a member of our Honor Flight family, on Monday, March 18th, after a long and courageous battle with heart disease.



For those of you who did not know Ron, he was the coordinator of our Pen Pal (Mail call) program.

I met Ron shortly after I was asked to coordinate the Operations Group of the Honor Flight Rochester program. Ron truly loved his involvement in Honor Flight and really enjoyed interacting not only with our veterans, but also with all of the volunteers in our program! Along with Jack and Marlene Schultz, they really fine-tuned and expanded the letter writing program to almost triple the number of schools involved in the program!


Prior to each flight, Ron and I met for coffee and to hand off all the letters that the kids had written. He was always excited to tell me about the different letters and the stories he had from working with the schools

that had written the letters for each trip! We almost always also found time to talk about

different things that were happening with our families, and both being grandfathers made it easy to tell those stories! It was also very easy to see how much Ron truly loved his family!

We will really miss Ron's involvement with Honor Flight Rochester, and I will truly miss my friend!"

John Burns

HFR needs many volunteers for the upcoming benefit concert on April 27th at Nazareth (see  pg. 5 for details). Please watch for the Survey Monkey in your mail box!

Dave Timmons has put together an HFR photo site on Shutterfly.com. If you have any photos to share, please e-mail them to:

volunteerhonorflightroc@gmail.com

and indicate when the photo was taken (e.g., on Mission 18). Veterans and their families will be able to easily order prints from the photo site. Thanks for your efforts, Dave!

Hike for Heroes



On Saturday, March 9th, Gates-Chili Middle School held its annual Hike for Heroes. Some of the proceeds were donated to HFR. Photo L-R: Jack Foy; Wes Geer, teacher and hike organizer; John Cappinello; John Burns; Jen Wiley; Roger Hill, President of the Monroe County Korean War Veterans Chapter; and Elmer Pankratz.



Above, student hikers pose with their Social Studies teacher, Wesley Geer, who is also an HFR volunteer.



Jean Kelly is looking for veterans and guardians/volunteers who would like to participate in the Fairport Memorial Day Parade (10 am on Monday, May 27).

Jean is also looking for volunteers with convertibles to drive the Veterans, so please let her know if you can help out. Please contact Jean via e-mail (jean@golfbigswing.com)

HFR Veteran Nick Morabito (USN Seabees, USS *Midway*) enjoyed his stylish ride in last year parade!



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

Volunteer Kickoff

About 100 HFR volunteers were treated to a delicious pasta and meatball dinner as part of our annual Volunteer Kickoff. Many thanks to Anna Alger from the Legacy for donating much of the food for the dinner!

Many, many thanks to organizer Jean Kelly and her kickoff crew who cooked the delicious food, decorated the room, and donated the coffee and tea. The team included crew chief Sandy Malec, Stephanie Malec, Terri Webb, Trish Fuchs, and Stephanie Fitzgerald. Sandy also baked the amazing cake (below) and donated the tablecloths and decorations.



Many thanks also to the setup crew which included Bob Michaud, Mary McGuire, C.P. Maloney, Frank Vavrick, Bonnie Dean, and Pat Camillieri, and to Pat and the VFW for letting us use their facility again.



John Burns, Pat Camillieri, Sally Sackett, and Frank Vavrick

Elmer Pankratz, Marty Richards, and Bonnie Dean



Tom Hope enjoying some hors d'oeuvres



Thanks also to Elaine Fahselt for decorating the walls with letters from grateful vets and their families. What a great reminder of why we do what we do!

Finally, thanks to Dave Timmons, Rob Contestabile, and host Elmer Brown for all of their efforts on the Kickoff (including helping with clean up)!

"A veteran is someone who at one point in his life wrote a blank check payable to The United States of America for an amount up to and including his life."

Gene Castagnetti, Director of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.



Veteran Memories—Henry Masciangelo

Henry (Hank) Masciangelo is a Fairport native who had a fascination with construction at a young age. As an early teen, he built an airplane in the basement of his parents' house. He made the frame out of tomato stakes, and designed the wings in a single piece that could be removed by sliding it through the body of the plane and then reassembled outdoors.

After earning All-County honors in football (as did his 3 brothers!) and graduating from high school, Hank enrolled at SUNY College of Technology at Delhi to study construction. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Army in September of 1944, and was assigned to the 1629th Engineer Construction Battalion. After training at Ft. Lewis (WA), Hank and the 1629th headed to the Pacific theater via the SS *Robin Doncaster* out of San Francisco on 26 April 1945. Unfortunately, the ship broke down 4 days later and had to be towed to Pearl Harbor escorted by two sub chasers. Hank still remembers seeing all of the sunken ships just a few feet below the water's surface. By 22 May, they were back underway towards the Philippines



After arriving in Manila Bay on 13 June 1945, Hank remembers hearing the shelling and shooting that first night. The battalion soon got busy building warehouses, landing strips, roads, and docks. Later, 800 men, including Hank, volunteered to help refit the SS *Carole Lombard* into a troop ship, which they accomplished in a record 72 hours! Hank was a witness to Gen. MacArthur's famous speech on the shore at Leyte and was also there when he accepted the Japanese surrender on the Missouri on 2 September. He and the 1629th participated in the occupation of Japan and saw the destruction at Nagasaki.

After his discharge from the army in September of 1946, Hank returned to Fairport and eventually started his own home construction business. He built about 200 homes in Fairport, and one of his sons took over the business after he retired.



Hank and his brother Lou (AAC, ETO) traveled to DC with HFR as part of Mission 4 in September, 2009. Today Hank's wife Mary, brother Lou, and daughter Jean all volunteer in various capacities for Honor Flight. Mary had seen an article about Honor Flight in the *Democrat & Chronicle*, so they went to the airport to see what it was all about. Although it was rainy and cold the day of their mission, they said "Everything was A-1" and particularly enjoyed seeing the WWII Memorial and meeting Senator Bob Dole and his wife Elizabeth.

Hank and Mary (née DiVirgilio), a Henrietta native, have been married for 62 years and have 3 children. After their mission, they became active volunteers for HFR, participating in Welcome Homes here and even going with Lou to a Welcome Home in Arizona for the then fledgling Phoenix hub. Mary had made a lap blanket for Hank for their trip, and has made all the blankets for Veterans since then. She also made the pattern for the scarves that the Medina school kids make today for the Vets.



Many thanks to Mary and Hank for their service to HFR and to our country!

Upcoming Events

Benefit Concert for Honor Flight Rochester

Presented by Nazareth College's Office of Veterans' Affairs

7 pm on Saturday, April 27th

Nazareth College Arts Center

Tickets will be \$12 pre-sale, \$15 at the door

Featuring The Prime Time Brass and friends:

The Ghost Riders Drum Corps

The Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra

The Image City Sound Chorus

The St. Joe's Reunion Drum Corps

Patriot Guard Riders of WNY

Hosted by Maureen McGuire

2013 Flying Schedule



Apr 20/21	Mission 27
May 18/19	Mission 28
Jun 15/16	Mission 29
Sep 14/15	Mission 30
Sep 28/29	Mission 31
Oct 19/20	Mission 32



Rochester Amerks Booster Club Euchre Tournament

April 14th

Hidden Valley Clubhouse in Gates
(199 Hidden Valley Rd. 14624)

Cost: \$20

Check In : 11 am, Starts: noon

Cash Prizes, raffles, 50/50

For more info or to sign up,
please call (585) 227-3504

Proceeds to Honor Flight Rochester

Letters from Veteran Families



"I recently heard a presentation by you at a Retired Teacher lunch. I had no idea how Involved your operation was. I was very moved and impressed!

I would like to sponsor a veteran for your trip. Please find a check for \$500 enclosed. I also would like to know when you get to the Vietnam Veterans.

Thank you and best wishes."

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Apr 3 Rotary Club of Leroy
- Apr 12 Pittsford Senior Citizens
- May 5-11 Victor Veterans Appreciation Wk.
- May 6 Hopewell Historical Society
- May 17 U of R Women's Club
- May 23 Brighton Memorial Library
- Jun 2-3 Fairport Canal Days
- Jun 5 Parma/Hilton Chamber of Comm.
- Jul 12-14 HAG (Geneseo) Air Show

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.



HFR Press Release

Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) is seeking men and women who served in the armed forces during the Korean War (1950-1953) to sign up for a free Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Korean War Memorial. The trip is free to veterans. The program remains open to World War II veterans. There are 5,384 Korean War Veterans in the Monroe County area. This is the 60th year of the armistice that ended the fighting, but not the hostilities.

“Many of the servicemen and women who helped fight the spread of communism on the Korean peninsula during the 1950s have always felt as though they fought in a forgotten conflict. We want them to know that they are remembered for standing up to an attack on freedom. They were on the front line of the cold war that turned hot,” said HFR President Woody Mench.

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950 when North Korea (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) attacked South Korea (Republic of Korea). The war stemmed from the attempts of both countries to reunify Korea. The United States along with other NATO countries supported South Korea while Russia and China aligned themselves with North Korea. During the 37-month conflict, 36,526 Americans were killed in action with another 103,000 wounded, 7,140 captured and 8,177 reported as missing in action. The war lasted until an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, and as a result a Korean Demilitarized Zone was established.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated on July 27, 1995, the 42nd anniversary of the armistice that ended the war. It is located in Washington, D.C.'s West Potomac Park, southeast of the Lincoln Memorial and just south of the Reflecting Pool on the National Mall. Its theme is: “Freedom is not Free. Our nation honors her sons and daughters, who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.”

Korean War veterans are encouraged to register for an Honor Flight Rochester mission by going online at www.honorflightrochester.org. Paper applications are available at most town halls in Monroe County and at City Hall in Rochester.

Have a question, comment, or something to share?

DROP US A LINE!

VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com

**Thank
a
Veteran!**