



HONOR FLIGHT Rochester Newsletter

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IN THIS EDITION:

LATEST NEWS:

Mission 29

TRIBUTE TO MICHELE UNGER

VETERAN MEMORIES

Henry (Hank)
Masciangelo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Flying
Schedule

Speakers
Bureau

WOODY'S COLUMN

Latest News

- WWII veterans Jack Foy (Battle of the Bulge) and John Cipolla (501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne) traveled to Normandy in June to participate in D-Day commemorations. Jack and John are also pictured in the photo below from the Irondequoit parade.
- Jack Peck, a WWII navy vet who was featured in our December 2012 newsletter, will be inducted into the Fairport High School Wall of Fame in September.

Our HFR vets rode in style in Irondequoit's 4th of July parade.



From the Braemar golf tournament—isn't it strange seeing Elaine and C. P. in colors other than orange and chartreuse?

On June 13, HFR was presented with the proceeds from Honor Flight Week in Victor. That same evening, HFR veterans and volunteers helped the town collect more than 135 lbs of food for the Victor Food Cupboard.



Mission 29 - June 14/15



As usual, a great crowd was on hand at the airport to welcome home the veterans of Mission 29!



The mission took place over Father's Day weekend, which added special significance for many vets and guardians.



Here are the ladies of Mission 29 at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Behind them is the *Women Go to War* exhibit, 1 of 3 honoring the women who served in WWII. This stop was an HFR first!



See more great photos of HFR missions and events at our photo site:

HonorFlightRochester.shutterfly.com

Thanks to Jen Wylie, Tony Zollo, Larry Strassner, and Lee Rigall for contributing photos recently.



USA: Home of the Free...Because of the Brave!



Tribute to Michele Unger

The Honor Flight Community was deeply saddened by the death of long-time volunteer and board member Michele Unger on June 18th. Michele is survived by a large extended family including her children Shannon and Marc and one grandchild.

Michele worked as a registered nurse for more than 38 years, and most recently served as Associate Director of Nursing Practice at Strong, and as an assistant professor of clinical nursing at the University of Rochester's School of Nursing. She was also the associate director of the School of Nursing's Leadership in Healthcare Systems master's programs. Michele also worked previously at Rochester General Hospital and Kaleida Health in Buffalo.



Any donations made to the UR School of Nursing in Michele's memory will be used to establish the Michele Unger Memorial Award, to be presented annually to a student enrolled in their Leadership in Healthcare Systems Master of Science program.



Michele began her involvement in Honor Flight Rochester while it was in its earliest stages. Her first trip was on Mission 2. At one time Michele was the departure leader, welcome home leader, safety leader, and operations leader, and also served as secretary and member of the board. This was back at a time when there wasn't anywhere near the number of volunteers or money that we have today. She told me that there were times when the departure team consisted of around ten volunteers and the safety team (people who make calls to book veterans) consisted of about five people. There were some trips that were scheduled and they weren't sure that they had the money to pay for them!

As the organization grew, Michele's role changed and she became responsible for training most of us who now hold the leadership positions that she at one time held.

One thing that really always stood out to me was her dedication to our veterans! Her goal was always to make their experience with Honor Flight Rochester the best that she could. I remember her saying "There are two things above all others that we are here for. Number one is to put veterans on the plane and make it the best experience possible, and number two is to figure out a way to pay for the trips! Everything else that we do is nice but those two things are our primary goals!"

She was my friend and mentor and will be sorely missed!

John Burns



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



Veteran Memories—Edward Kohl



Edward (Ed) Kohl was a cadet in the Army Air Corps during WWII, training to be a pilot until pilot training was discontinued because the end of the war was in sight. Then he and fellow cadets worked on the airplanes (e.g., fueling them).

Ed began his training at Ft. Dix (NJ) then went on to Greensboro (NC), Indiana, Independence (KS), Brooks Field in San Antonio (TX), Biloxi (MS), Langley Field (VA), and back to New Jersey where he was discharged. He served in the Air Corps in 1944 and 1945, and Ed says “I got to see of lot of the U.S. on the government”. His favorite stop was in San Antonio, where he got to know people at the USO.



After the war, Ed first worked at Todd Manufacturing and later on he worked as a master carpenter at John B. Pike & Sons. He and his wife Joan (shown here with him at the Mission 25 Welcome Home) have been married 63 years. Ed and Joan have eight children: 5 sons and 3 daughters. While two of the children live out of state, the rest are in the Rochester area, and one son lives in the house where Ed grew up on Hogan Road in Fairport.

Ed found out about Honor Flight by reading about it in the *Democrat and Chronicle*. His son Ken, who served as his guardian on Mission 25 last year, took care of the paperwork for both of them.

Ed thought that everything on the trip was good and well-organized, and



he and Ken particularly enjoyed meeting Senators Bob and Elizabeth Dole at the WWII Memorial. The picture at left shows Ed and Ken with Sen. Bob Dole.



Upcoming Events

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Webster
presents its annual

Bruce Mason Memorial Golf Tournament

at Lakeshore Country Club

Greenleaf Road

Saturday September 7th

Entrance fee is \$65 (includes golf and dinner)

Golfers of all ages abilities are welcome

For more details visit our website or

www.goodshepherdepiscopal.org/fellowship/

All proceeds to be donated to HFR!

2013 Flying Schedule



Sep 14/15 Mission 30

Sep 28/29 Mission 31

Oct 19/20 Mission 32

Letters from Veteran Families



"I want to thank HFR for allowing me to be a guest on Mission 28. I enjoyed every moment of the trip and viewing all the war monuments. I was very impressed seeing the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. All I can say about the reception we received on Sunday by friends, relatives, the Patriot Riders, Canandaigua grade school students and the Fairport Firemen's Band is WOW!

My final expression of deep gratitude and thankfulness goes to the mission staff, including the guardians, plane leaders, nurses and ground crews. They all showed a caring dedication, efficiency and personal attention that had to come from their hearts.

May God bless Honor Flight Rochester."



Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Aug 2 Lakeshore CC Golf Tournament
- Sep 5 NARF Chapter 124
- Sep 7 Bruce Mason Mem. Golf Tourn.
- Nov 6 Chili Public Library
- Nov 7 Dansville Women's Civic Club
- Nov 9 Messiah Lutheran Church
- Nov 11 Stars & Stripes 5k VeteRun
- Nov 11 Fairport Public Library
- Nov 11 Oasis
- Nov 11 Gr. Roch. Partner. For the Elderly
- Nov 13 Settlers Club of Fairport
- Nov 17 Henrietta Historical Society

"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.

Keep 'Em Flying

On June 16th, Father's Day, Honor Flight Rochester's Mission 29 returned to a rousing welcome (see photos on page 2). Families, friends, a pipe band, and the Patriot Riders came to celebrate the return of our veterans. It was a momentous event for all of us.



Five years ago we planned our first flight without a clue as to how we would pay for it. Today more than 1,350 veterans from the Rochester area have had the opportunity go on an Honor Flight mission to visit their memorial in Washington DC. We are fortunate to live in a community that has been so supportive and continues to support Honor Flight Rochester. Also this community has offered up to HFR terrific volunteers without whom our missions would not happen.

Mission 29 brings to a conclusion my tenure as Honor Flight Rochester Operations President. It is time to turn this over to younger people who have the time and energy to continue forward with our day-to-day operations and vision.

Thank you all for your support and caring. I may be retiring as President but I plan to continue to be involved in this wonderful organization.

God bless!

Woody

Editor's Note: Although Woody is stepping down from his role as President of Honor Flight Rochester, he will continue to serve as Chairman of the Board.

Have a question, comment, or something to share?

DROP US A LINE!

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Thank
a
Veteran!