



# HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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## Volunteer Kickoff



The producer and director of Greece Athena's theater program and two cast members from the upcoming show *Miss Saigon* joined in our Volunteer Kickoff. Lead singer MacKenzie Wright performed our national anthem. HFR will have volunteers and a table at the upcoming shows. Thanks to Larry Strassner for arranging this special performance!

Many thanks to all who made the Kickoff possible, especially Jean Kelly, who coordinated; Anna Alger from the Victor Legacy, who donated food for dinner; Sandy Malec, who cooked a delicious dinner and helped set up and decorate the room; and Mary Masciangelo, who baked the yummy cookies.

Thanks also to the kitchen crew of Rich Malec, Terri DeRosa Webb, Trish Fuchs, Mike and Stephanie Fitzgerald, Fran Gallahan, and Brian Kelly. Thanks to the setup crew of Maynard and Deb Carney, Lee Zambito, and Roy Gordon, and to Mike Murphy and "Men Behaving Badly" for providing music during our cocktail hour. Thanks also to the Fairport VFW for hosting us again this year.



WWII vet Pete DuPre entertained us with tunes on his harmonica



# Latest News

## HFR Names Greg Foust Vice-President of Volunteers

The Honor Flight Rochester board of directors has named Greg Foust as vice president Volunteer Resources.

Greg began volunteering with the Departure and Welcome Home teams in early 2010. Soon after, he joined the Volunteer Resource Committee. He was named to the Honor Flight Rochester Leadership Team in May 2011. Greg flew as a guardian for a veteran on Missions 10 and 25.

Presently, he is the Chief Operating Officer for eHealth Technologies; a rapidly growing Rochester-based healthcare services company. Prior to joining eHealth in 2007, he worked at Eastman Kodak Company for 35 years, where he held several senior management positions.



Greg Foust

"I have a very special place in my heart for our veterans," said Greg. "During World War II, my father was a captain on a PT boat in the South Pacific and my father-in-law flew a bomber over Europe. My involvement in coordinating the more than 300 wonderful volunteers associated with Honor Flight Rochester is my way of saying thanks to my dad, my father-in-law and to all veterans who served so honorably and sacrificed so much for all of us."

"Greg's commitment to volunteerism has greatly benefited everyone at Honor Flight Rochester," said Honor Flight Rochester President Rich Stewart.

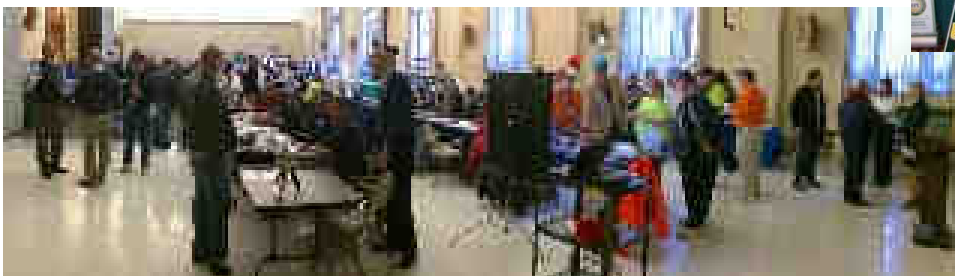
In addition to Honor Flight Rochester, Greg serves on the Board of the Conesus Lake Association, is a Business Mentor with the Young Entrepreneurs Academy and a guest judge for the annual High Tech Rochester business plan competition. Greg also enjoys building sets for the Greece Athena Middle and High Schools musicals.

Greg and his wife Peg live in Geneseo, NY. They have been married for 41 years and have two children and three grandchildren. They enjoy travelling.

## MCH Veterans Fair and Home & Garden Show

Volunteers from HFR recently participated in a Veterans Fair at Monroe Community Hospital. (*below*) where many people talked with our volunteers and some veterans were signed up for future Missions.

Our exhibit at the Rochester Home & Garden Show (*right*) on March 22-23 was a success. Not only did we get the word out to veterans, many people put made donations. Folks contributed more \$800 while they toured the show at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.



Thanks to C. P. Maloney (*above*) and all of the volunteers who helped out at these two events!

***"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**



## Volunteer Spotlight: Frank Vavrick

While HFR is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization, there is a need for requisite financial accountability. Airlines, hotels, apparel, and bus companies need to be paid. Promotional items offered in exchange for donations need to be purchased. Bank and checking accounts require proper monitoring and there are a myriad of other financial regulations that must be adhered to in order to keep HFR flying.

Volunteer Frank Vavrick fulfills these responsibilities in the financial arena. Frank serves as secretary and treasurer on both the HFR board of directors and on the leadership team. Frank estimates that he could spend up to 20 hours a week doing HFR activities and he knows that he is not the only one. "There is always something going on with either the leadership team or our board of directors as we strive to continue our awesome momentum. I tend to a lot of our administrative activities and processes, and pay all suppliers and vendors for the expenses and services we incur for our missions and events." He works closely with volunteer Elaine Fahselt, who coordinates donations. "Elaine processes all the donations – the input, and I pay all the bills – the output," he joked.

Frank had relatives who served during World War II. His father, Frank senior, served in Supply Services with the U.S. Army and was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Two uncles served with the U.S. Army Air Corps. "Unfortunately, my dad and his brothers passed on before the World War II Memorial was built," he said.



Frank became involved in HFR after retiring from Xerox in 2008. In his 39-year career with Xerox he worked in manufacturing, purchasing and finance. "I was looking for a new volunteer opportunity, where I could help and hopefully make a difference," he said. "I read an article in the *Democrat and Chronicle* about Honor Flight Rochester needing guardians and other volunteers. It looked very intriguing, so I sent in applications."

He soon was tapped for solo guardian duty. "I got a phone call from then HFR President Vince Hope on a Monday telling me you leave Saturday," he recalled about his Mission 10 Honor Flight, June 19-20, 2010. "After that one trip I was hooked." In 2011, he was a guardian for a WWII U.S. Navy veteran family member. Frank has also served as a bus leader and has enjoyed, "the privilege" of being a mission leader for Mission 31, September 28-29, 2013. It



wasn't long before the HFR leadership discovered Frank's financial and purchasing work experience and educational background. He was invited to join the leadership team and the board of directors to help HFR grow and develop. Frank is an RIT graduate.

Outside of HFR, Frank and his wife Jane have an active lifestyle. They participate in many activities at their church and its community summer concert program. They also spend time with their grown children and four grandchildren, all of whom live near their home in Webster. "We travel with all the kids to beach vacations in New England in the summer. Jane and I frequently visit our family in Maine," he said. The New York City native finds time to trek to the Big Apple to attend Yankees baseball games or enjoy jazz at the many music clubs. The family includes a pair of Norwegian Buhund dogs.

Although he was surrounded by WWII veterans in his youth, he wasn't that interested in that war. "My father never really talked about his service," he said. Since becoming involved in HFR, Frank has done a lot more reading on WWII and adds, "Even my granddaughter watches the *History Channel* with me. It's just too important of a time period for us to forget."

His greatest satisfaction as an HFR volunteer comes from the veterans. "The reward you get is at the homecoming, when veterans smile back at you and say thank you," he said. "We're trying to thank them and they thank us. And secondly, the volunteer experience with Honor Flight Rochester is phenomenal. Being part of this large group of people who make Honor Flight Rochester work as it does is simply the best."

That you can take to the bank.

Thanks to Rick Meier for writing this profile!

## Upcoming Events

Volunteers and Vets are needed for the  
Fairport Memorial Day Parade

**Monday, May 26th at 10 am**

convertibles line up at 9 am

We need Health & Safety Team members  
and helpers for the veterans.

Please e-mail Jean Kelly if you can help:

**[lotsacatsrfun@gmail.com](mailto:lotsacatsrfun@gmail.com)**

Optional lunch at Fairport VFW afterwards

### Mandatory Update for All Volunteers!

The VRC will be sending a SurveyMonkey to you shortly to confirm/update your contact info and volunteer "job" preferences. If you choose not to complete the survey, you will not be on our list of active volunteers and will no longer be contacted!

### Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Apr 27 Hidden Valley All-American Picnic
- May 9-16 HFR Week in Victor
- May 15 Hilton East Assisted Living
- May 17 Armed Forces Day
- May 25 Victor Hills Golf Outing
- May 25 Irondequoit Mem. Day Parade
- May 26 Penfield Recreation Mem. Day
- May 27 Trot for Troops
- Jun 7-8 Fairport Canal Days
- Jul 11-13 Geneseo Air Show
- Jul 20 Frances McCabe Golf Benefit
- Aug 16 Prime Time Brass Benefit Concert
- Aug 16-17 Rochester Air Show

## 2014 Flying Schedule



Apr 5/6	Mission 33
May 17/18	Mission 34
June 14/15	Mission 35
June 28/29	Mission 36

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



### Letters from Veterans & Their Families



Here's a recent letter that we received from a vet:

*"Even though the 'high' is not over, it's time to be a bit reflective.*

*It is time to say 'thank you' for the terrific experience afforded by the generosity and tireless hard work of so many. Mission 32 was one of the most memorable experiences of my entire life.*

*Please convey my personal thanks to all - and keep up the good work!"*

# A Message from Rich

The annual Honor Flight Network Summit was held in Baltimore from February 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three of us from Rochester had the privilege to attend: VP of Operations John Burns, Secretary/Treasurer Frank Vavrck, and me. Hubs from as far away as Alaska, San Diego and Florida sent representatives. Presently there are 137 hubs covering 43 states. The network is truly national.



Without exception all participants showed widespread enthusiasm. The agenda covered practical topics including guardian training, airport ground support, merchandise, fundraising as well as policies/procedures and more. Cofounders Earl Morse and Jeff Miller led some of the sessions.

Furthermore, you might be interested to know that our friend and former Rochesterian Dave Nichols is now a member of the National Board. He gave a light-hearted presentation on the government shutdown.

Perhaps one of the most valuable aspects of the Summit was time set aside for open forums and networking. We heard of many similar challenges that we all face. People were very willing to share their experiences with others. Many times the solutions are custom-tailored to the needs of each hub. For instance, the Alaska hub missions take five days and at half way they do an overnight in Portland, Oregon. This means that their financial and time commitments are substantially greater than other hubs.

This past year, 18,787 veterans were flown by Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. And, since its inception in 2005 the total veterans flown count is 117,556. These significant accomplishments were done by you and your fellow volunteers across the country. We met many dedicated volunteers. They are available to us as resources just as we are available to them. The Summit was highly successful.

Back here in the Rochester area we had a great turn out for our Volunteer Kickoff event. It was held on March 6 at the Fairport VFW Post 8495. This was an ideal time to renew, as well as make new, connections with the teams that you wish to be involved with this flying season. A highlight of the evening was a stellar solo performance of our national anthem by MacKenzie Wright. She is a senior at Greece Athena High School and has a lead role in the student production of *Miss Saigon* which runs for 5 performances starting March 28 and ending April 5. Honor Flight will have an information table there.

I hope to see you at the airport to welcome home Mission 33 on Sunday, April 6.

**Have a question, comment,  
or something to share?**

**DROP US A LINE!**

**[VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com](mailto:VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com)**

**Thank  
a  
Veteran!**