



# HONOR FLIGHT®

## ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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## HFR Veterans Return to Normandy

Four HFR veterans left Rochester recently on a two-week trip to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Their trips were paid for by the Greatest Generation Foundation and College of the Ozarks.

The veterans include John Cipolla, John (Jack) Foy, Joseph (Joe) Mack who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, and Louis (Lou) Masciangelo who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 8th Air Force, 389th Bomb Group. This will be the first time that Joe Mack has returned to Omaha beach since he landed 70 years ago and where he watched his best friend die.

John Cipolla parachuted into France 15 miles behind enemy lines as a member of the 101st Airborne from a C-47 troop transport similar to *Whiskey 7* (see story on page 3). He still has the "cricket" device which was used to distinguish between friends and the enemy. Later, John was part of the outnumbered forces defending Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

Jack Foy did not land at Normandy but served under General Patton during the Battle of the Bulge. The four men will also tour Battle of the Bulge sites, and are expected to meet President Obama during the D-Day ceremonies.



Joe Mack in Portsmouth, England, shaking hands with a British WWII veteran



From left, Jack, Joe, and Lou at a ceremony at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

# Missions 33 and 34

We're half way through our Spring 2014 missions. Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who made our first two missions such a success!

Please visit our photo site at:

[HonorFlightRochester.Shutterfly.com](http://HonorFlightRochester.Shutterfly.com)

for more great photos of our missions and other 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



# Latest News

## Whiskey 7's Return to Normandy

A large crowd which included many HFR veterans and volunteers attended a May 15th luncheon and program at the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo. The attendees watched the takeoff of *Whiskey 7* (below) on its historic return to France as part of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. It is one of the few remaining WWII-era planes capable of making the transatlantic trip.



*Whiskey 7*, a Douglas C-47 troop transport plane, was the lead ship of the 37th Troop Carrier Squadron which dropped members of the 82nd Airborne Division near St. Mère-Église in the early hours of June 6, 1944. *Whiskey 7* and its crew will reenact that mission by dropping members of the Liberty Jump Team at various locations (original D-Day drop zones) from June 4th until June 9th.



C.P. Maloney and some of our vets at the luncheon in Geneseo. Thanks to John Peckham for the great photos!

## Honor Flight® Week in Victor

As part of the Town of Victor's annual Honor Flight® Week, Victor Hills golf course hosted a tournament to raise funds for HFR. Here is a picture of Elaine Fahselt with WWII vets Bob Persichitti (left) and Elmer Pankratz.



## Independent Living for Seniors Raises Funds for HFR

In November 2013, Frank Vavrick and Maynard Carney, members of our Speakers Bureau, gave a presentation at the Independent Living for Seniors (ILS) facility.

Their Recreational Therapist, Nicole Bolen, was inspired by the talk and joined us as a volunteer and also rallied the residents to support HFR by collecting cans and bottles.

One of their residents will travel on our next mission, and Nicole and some of the residents will come to the airport to welcome him home and present HFR with a check from their fundraiser. Many thanks to Nicole and the ILS residents for their support!

### Volunteer Information Update

Thanks to all volunteers who have completed the mandatory information update via SurveyMonkey. Unfortunately, more than 100 volunteers have not done so, and will soon be dropped from our list of active volunteers. The last survey was sent on May 20th at 9 am. If you have not yet taken the survey, please complete your information ASAP. Thank you.



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



## Upcoming Events

Lima American Legion Post #282

3rd Annual Bike & Care Show

Sunday, July 13th 10 am to 4 pm

American Legion Clubhouse

2475 Route 65, West Bloomfield

No cost for spectators (\$15 for vehicles)

For more info, visit [www.francismdaltonpost282.org](http://www.francismdaltonpost282.org)

Nazareth College Office of Veterans' Affairs  
and Prime Time Brass Present a

### Benefit Concert for HFR

Saturday, August 16th

Nazareth College Arts Center

Tickets: All seats general admission

Box Office: (585) 389-2170

[boxoffice.naz.edu](http://boxoffice.naz.edu)

## Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Jun 7-8 Fairport Canal Days
- Jun 13 Penfield Rotary Club Fundraiser
- Jun 21 Penfield Rotary Veterans Expo
- Jul 8 Scottsville Rotary Club
- Jul 11-14 Geneseo Air Show
- Jul 16 Ogden Senior Center
- Jul 19 Frances McCabe Golf Benefit
- Jul 21 Gates Historical Society
- Aug 1 Lakeshore CC Golf Benefit
- Aug 16 Prime Time Brass Benefit Concert
- Aug 11-17 LPGA
- Aug 16-17 Rochester Air Show
- Oct 25 Elvis Night

## 2014 Flying Schedule



June 14/15	Mission 35
June 28/29	Mission 36
Sept 6/7	Mission 37
Sept 27/28	Mission 38
Oct 18/19	Mission 39



## Letters from Veterans & Their Families



*"My heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who made our recent trip so successful and meaningful. Truly dedicated, some traveled with us to ease the way and guide us to the memorials. Others were at the airports, seeing us off and welcoming us back home.*

*A pleasant (and almost overwhelming) surprise to me was the huge turnout of the public, military in uniform, and government officials. There were brass bands, a water cannon greeting, motor cycle escort... on and on! People of all ages greeted us with a handshake and a 'Thank you for your service'.*

*I learned this was the 33rd local Honor Flight trip. May it continue strong."*

# A Message from Rich

Earlier this spring on April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege to be on Mission 33, our first flight of the 2014. Frank Vavrck was the overall Trip Leader and my part was as the Bus #2 Leader. As with all preceding missions our weekend was highly successful. It was a team effort that followed the proven plan. Our travelling crew included Safety Leaders, Float Guardians and DC Ground Support. This team helped make sure that our veterans and their guardians got the most out of the weekend.



However, there is much more behind a successful mission than just the people who travel. Additionally there are more than two hundred volunteers back in Rochester diligently doing all the details to help produce the “weekend of a lifetime” for our heroes. The mechanics of this process go on year around. Countless hours are involved by tireless volunteers. I want to say thank you to all who participate as their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Also, I would like to make a special thank you to Prime Time Brass for their surprise performances during Mission 33. This fabulous band drove from Rochester at their own expense to play at the World War II Memorial and later on Saturday night they entertained at our banquet. The support by Prime Time Brass is unwavering. I look forward to their upcoming benefit concert for Honor Flight® on August 16<sup>th</sup> at Nazareth College (see page 4 for details).

Each volunteer should be justly proud in helping Honor Flight® Rochester fulfill our missions. We fly veterans to visit and reflect at their memorials in Washington D.C. While tied to the past these memorials are an important reminder to future generations of their responsibility for freedom, patriotism and unity. Honor Flight® missions freshen memories and make sure that what our heroes did will not be forgotten. I would like to thank our volunteers for their efforts towards our veterans.

Further there are a number of excellent events on our schedule this summer benefiting Honor Flight® Rochester. I hope to see you there.

Thank you.

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

**DROP US A LINE!**

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

**Thank  
a  
Veteran!**