



HONOR FLIGHT®

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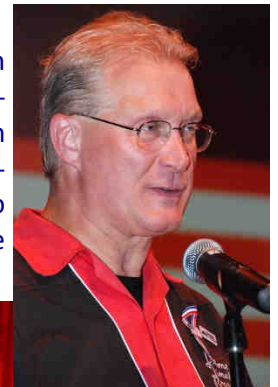
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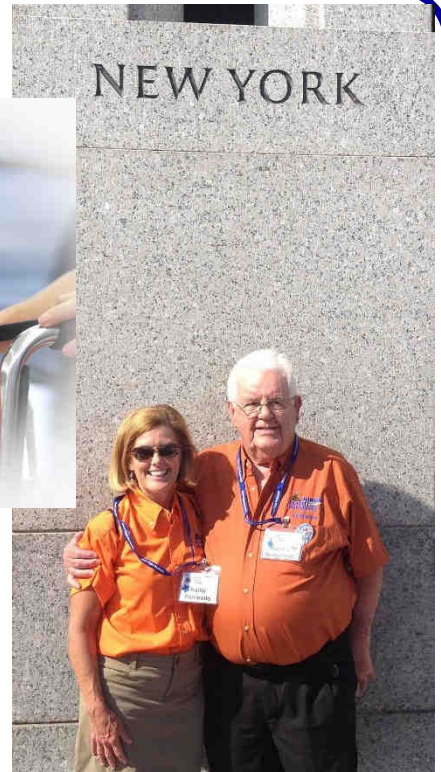
Prime Time Brass Benefit Concert

The Nazareth College Office of Veterans' Affairs and Prime Time Brass presented a concert which benefited HFR on Saturday, August 16th. News 8's Maureen McGuire served as emcee for the evening, and special musical guests included the Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, the Mighty St. Joe's Drum Corps, and the Image City Sound of the Sweet Adelines. Other participants included General Norman Rappl US Army (Ret.), the Patriot Guard Riders of WNY, and the American Legion Post 468 Color Guard.

This year's concert raised sufficient funds to pay for an entire mission of veterans to travel to DC with HFR. Many thanks to all of the musical groups who participated. Also, HFR is very grateful to Tom Allen (right) from Prime Time Brass and Jeremy Bagley from Nazareth College for their many hours spent planning this event! Thanks also to Jen Wylie for the photos, to our many volunteers, and to all of the veterans and supporters who attended the concert.



Mission 37



Please visit our photo site HonorFlightRochester.Shutterfly.com for more photos of this and other missions!

HFR Delivers Book to Irondequoit Veteran

Nina Oberly, a WWII veteran who lives in Irondequoit, was unable to travel to D.C. on one of our Honor Flight trips, so on August 25th, a contingent from HFR brought the memorial to her. Rich Stewart presented Nina with a beautiful photo book of the WWII Memorial which also describes its construction (photo, *right*, by Rick Meier). Fellow veterans and volunteers George Haines, Elmer Brown, and C. P. Maloney also attended the book presentation.

Nina, who is now 95, served as a nurse in Fiji, in India, and at Walter Reed Hospital. She has become a fixture at various patriotic parades in Irondequoit, where she often steals the



show (photo, *left*, courtesy of Glenn Peck

who is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20). Nina was thrilled to greet fellow veterans at a recent Welcome Home.

HFR delivers books to veterans who have signed up for a flight but are unable to travel. Volunteer Greg Foust coordinates a team of volunteers for this delivery effort.





Veteran Memories—Adam DeSantis

Those of us who have seen the Mission 14 video likely remember Adam DeSantis as the veteran who said that he was so cold during the Battle of the Bulge that he would crawl under trucks and hug their mufflers to try to warm up. The mufflers burned his coat but that didn't matter to Adam because the heat felt so good. Not surprisingly, Adam says that battle was the worst and that we lost 19,000 American men.



Adam in California in front of a Joshua tree

Adam served in the army for a total of three years including one in the U.S. He was originally stationed in Cardiff, Wales and then England. His unit, the 740th AAA Gun Battalion, provided anti-aircraft support to the Army Air Corps in Europe. The Germans fired 27,000 V1 buzz bombs at targets in the city of London and the harbor of Antwerp during the war. The 740th AAA shot down 2 German planes and more than 200 V1 bombs and received four battle stars. Adam was in London when the sad Operation Tiger incident happened shortly before D-Day. 749 American lives were tragically lost when two ships were sunk in the English Channel by German E-boats.

Adam landed in France on D-Day+12. He lived in a foxhole and ate c-rations for two years. In 1944 at Boissy Saint Leger, Adam noticed a French civilian wandering around in the woods. Eventually he talked with the man who told him he was gathering moss for his orchid business. Adam was quite homesick at the time and was thrilled when the man, Marcel Lecoufle, invited him back to his home. They rode there in Marcel's steam engine car. While eating a hot delicious meal, Marcel's

wife mentioned that she had not had real coffee in five years, so Adam walked the seven miles back to his unit and asked his sergeant for 5 pounds of coffee. After enduring a lot of questions to ensure Adam wasn't going to sell it on the black market (\$1000 value), Adam returned to Marcel's home with the coffee.

Recently Adam tried Googling Marcel and found that he is 100 years old (*photo, right*) and is still involved with his orchid business near Paris. They have been in touch via e-mail, and Marcel recently sent Adam some scans from the book on orchids that Adam gave him in 1944, including the page where Adam had handwritten a note.

Adam found out about Honor Flight Rochester from fellow veteran Harry Clancy. Adam had already been to the WWII Memorial, but Harry urged him to go anyhow. Harry told him "You want to go!" and Adam is so glad that he did. He says that the entire trip was fantastic and says "it kind of hits you when people do things for you" and that our volunteers "do such a beautiful job". In turn, Adam talked his friend and neighbor Al Smith into signing up, and Al traveled with us on MI 37.

After the war, Adam went to the Mechanics Institute (now RIT) for a year and over the years worked at several different jobs. He retired from a security position at Kodak Elmgrove in 1988.

Adam has four grown children, five grand children and two great-grand children. In his spare time, he loves to teach children how to play chess at the Chili Library and is writing a book. Adam particularly enjoyed the letters that he received from school children during "mail call" on his mission. He made sure to meet each one of them upon his return, and he will be making some school visits this fall with Marlene and Jack Schultz.



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



Upcoming Events

4th Annual Stars & Stripes 5K VeteRun &

Kids' Boot Camp Style Fun Run

Tuesday, November 11th at 11 am

Mendon Ponds Park, Stewart Lodge, Douglas Rd.

Walkers are Welcome, Many Prizes!

Race Fee: \$25 before Nov. 7, \$30 after

Veterans: \$10

Kid Fun Run: \$5 per child

For more info or a registration form please visit:

www.veterun5k.com

Race proceeds benefit Honor Flight Rochester!

Elvis Night to Benefit HFR

Saturday, October 25th from 7 pm - ?

Featuring Elvis Impersonator Patrick Johnson

Barnard Exempts, 360 Maiden Lane 14616

Door Prizes and 50/50 Raffle

Tickets are \$13 and are available from:

Karen Gerrish 467-9002

or at the Barnard Exempts

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- | Oct 2 Bergen Historical Club
- | Oct 7 Crossroads Insurance Professionals
- | Oct 9 Williamson Amer. Legion Post 394
- | Oct 11 Hobart Football
- | Oct 17 Canandaigua VA Health Fair
- | Oct 25 Elvis Night (see above)
- | Nov 8 Fleming Point Senior Living
- | Nov 8 Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
- | Nov 11 Italian Women's Civic Club
- | Nov 11 Springwater Historical Society
- | Nov 11 Stars & Stripes VeteRun (see above)
- | Nov 11 Greece Concert Band Fundraiser
- | Nov 13 Dorcas Rachael St. Paul's Lutheran
- | Nov 15 Gypsum Mills Estates
- | Nov 19 Spencerport Chamber of Commerce
- | Nov 19 Genetaska Club of Rochester
- | Nov 21 Skycoasters Turkey Bash

2014 Flying Schedule



Sept 27/28 Mission 38

Oct 18/19 Mission 39

Letters from Veterans & Their Families



"I want to thank you and your efficient organization for a most fabulous trip. I have never had the pleasure of being on such a trip that was as organized, as efficiently run, without a glitch and everyone ending up smiling from ear to ear.

I thought I would never see a throng of people waiting to say THANK YOU with true emotions, for my service. It was truly a fabulous two days remembering, rehashing old days, talking to men who knew what war was like. We had time to talk, to laugh and to show our unabashed emotions when we talked about the guys we left behind — the real heroes.

I want to commend you and your wonderful staff for a job so well done it defies any attempt to describe. Thank you so much for an unforgettable journey from the far past to a memorable and emotional conclusion. The two days spent with WW2 folks and your entourage will never be forgotten. If indeed, this generation feels that it never quite thanked us for service to our country, please feel vindicated. You have given us a lasting memory that will never be forgotten."

A Message from Rich

This is a fabulous year underway with six missions completed and one still remaining.

Our veterans are so worthy. It has been said that Honor Flight comes full circle. Many decades ago these veterans answered our country's call. They were there for our nation then and we as Honor Flight are here for them now. Honor Flight provides our veterans that long delayed thank you. Or said in another way, we provide our veterans with a proverbial "day in the sun" in recognition of what they did so long ago. For many veterans the Honor Flight experience rolls back the years and at least temporarily takes down some of the barriers of time. It is my best hope that the memories from their Honor Flight will stay with our veterans for the rest of their lives.



Honor Flight focuses significant resources on the veteran which otherwise would not be available to him or her. Specifically Honor Flight joins together the efforts of volunteers and the financial support from the community. Further for many veterans there is family involvement. Our volunteers are simply the best as they are industrious, involved and caring. Our community's financial support is broad based and pays for the cost of each veteran's trip. Further we realize that families are very important to HFR. Most often the guardians are family members who are helpful in so many ways. Frequently they help fill out the application or provide transportation to and from the airport. Family members attend and cheer at the "Welcome Homes." This lets the younger generation see Dad or Granddad or Grandmother in a different context, not only as parent or grandparent but also as a celebrated hero. Honor Flight is a fitting tribute to our veterans.

In combination volunteers, community and families make possible Honor Flight missions for our veterans. I look forward to seeing you at our next "Welcome Home" on October 19th.

Best Regards,

Rich Stewart
President

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

DROP US A LINE!

VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com

**Thank
a
Veteran!**