



# HONOR FLIGHT®

## ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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### HFR Veteran's Last Wishes

A WWII Army veteran was very recently admitted to a local hospice comfort care home. He arrived wearing his Rochester Honor Flight shirt and with his small lap army blanket, given to him at the conclusion of his Honor Flight, covering his lap. The hospice nurse shared with him that she recognized his orange shirt having seen mine from my recent 2014 Honor Flight.

As the veteran's remaining days dwindled, he was asked if he could have one last wish granted, what might it be. Without hesitation, this WWII Army Veteran responded yes, and that it had two parts. One, he wished the people of Honor Flight Rochester could somehow know the powerful impact his honor flight had had on him. He elaborated briefly on his experience: mail call, Washington reception, visiting the Memorials, the banquet, and the Welcome Home. The second part of his wish was he wanted to be buried in his Rochester Honor Flight Veteran shirt and with the Army lap blanket given to him.

During his brief stay at the hospice home, he wore his Honor Flight shirt daily. His Army lap blanket helped keep him warm and comfortable. After his death, his family asked for his Honor Flight Rochester shirt so that they could wash it and then have it placed on him for his burial—one part of his wish becoming a reality.

By sharing this story with the Honor Flight Rochester volunteers, it is hoped that the other part of his wish will also be granted to him with great and sincere gratitude not only on his behalf, but on behalf of all of us Rochester Honor Flight veterans who have been richly blessed by your collective efforts, by the support of our community, and by an Honor Flight and "Welcome Home" never to be forgotten.

Thank you Honor Flight Rochester. Thank you Rochester community.

Submitted by Warren Webster

Korean War Veteran, Mission 35 Honor Flight Veteran, and now an Honor Flight Rochester Volunteer (with pride and deep gratitude)

*Thank you Warren for sharing this story with us! What a fantastic reminder of why we do what we do!*

# Missions 38 and 39



See more photos at [HonorFlightRochester.Shutterfly.com](https://www.honorflightrochester.com)



***“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—Tom Hope

Tom Hope's film career started at the young age of 17 when he made a silent film about his trip to Europe for the 5<sup>th</sup> International Boy Scout Jamboree. Afterwards, Tom spent so much time showing his 43 minute film to high school groups and Sunday school classes that he neglected his studies at the University of Minnesota. His parents decided that a change of scenery was in order, so he transferred to the Texas College of Mines (later Texas Western and now UTEP). While they didn't offer any film classes, Tom says his journalism minor was very beneficial to his later film career because "making a news reel has the same elements of telling a good story". He recently traveled to El Paso for the University's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary where he danced with the school's president.

Tom was drafted three weeks before graduation and put his film skills to good use when he was stationed in Helena, Montana, with the First Special Service Force. He was asked to take slow-motion movies of parachute jumps in an attempt to reduce the 25% casualty rate they were experiencing. His research showed injuries were caused by landing on one leg, which led to the modern style of landing feet together. While filming from the floor of a plane, Tom started to slide out its open door when the pilot banked. Fortunately for him and for HFR, he was able to grab the door with both hands by dropping his camera, which was later found undamaged in the snow.

After 8 months in Montana, Tom was chosen for Officer Candidate School at Ft. Monmouth and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on July 12, 1943. He was assigned to the Army Signal Corps and sent to work at their Motion Picture School in Long Island City. Tom became the head of the school at age 24 when Jimmy Stewart's brother-in-law Steve Bradley was sent to Louisiana for a special project with General Patton.



Tom traveled to the European Theater on the *Queen Elizabeth* and says "I danced with the nurses to Glenn Miller's band all five afternoons of the trip". He was involved in the siege of Brest and later fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and ended his service as photo officer for the Ninth Army. One funny story—Tom accidentally stepped on Gen. Patton's foot when the general stretched out his leg just as Tom as going up the aisle of a plane. Gen. Patton apologized to Tom for putting his foot where Tom was going to step!



In August of 1945, Tom says he made one of the most important decisions of his life. He was stationed at Ft. Benning where they were planning the invasion of Japan. His superiors offered him a promotion to major to stay regular army and help write the history of the war but he turned it down because he wanted to become a civilian film producer.

Tom left the Army and was hired by General Mills to start its film department. One of his accomplishments there was bringing the Lone Ranger program to television. While filming an ad for theaters, Tom was unhappy that the professional actresses were not what he was looking for. However, on April 30, 1948, he spotted the secretary to the VP in the cafeteria and thought that she was perfect for the ad. It turned out that she was perfect for him as well—he and Mabeth were married exactly one year later and they have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

In the fall of 1952, the State Department asked him to take a leave to help the French government recover from WWII as part of the Marshall Plan. His team took training films (e.g., how to run a lathe) and put French soundtracks on them. State wanted Tom to go onto Greece but he wanted his boys to grow up as Americans so the family returned to Minneapolis. The Hope family came to Rochester in March of 1954 when Tom was hired by Eastman Kodak to consult on the use of 16 mm film. He took early retirement in 1970 and he and Mabeth founded Hope Reports, Inc., a market research firm specializing in the audiovisual field. They retired for good in 2003 when they closed the firm.

Tom found out about Honor Flight through an article in *USA Today* which included a phone number that he called. About one year later, he was called to go on a Lone Eagle flight and asked his son Vince to be his guardian. They had a wonderful experience together and Vince became so inspired that he and others founded our Rochester hub. Tom met Sen. Bob Dole during his trip and gave him a book, *Bonding for Life*, that he had written about the Special Forces. Sen. Dole wrote him a nice letter afterwards and told Tom that he had put his book in his library. He also met Honor Flight founder Earl Morse at lunch and talked with him for quite a while. Tom enjoyed going to Welcome Homes to greet most of our missions up until this year. His favorite part of attending Welcome Homes was seeing the grandchildren of the veterans.



## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Dec 2 ROC the Day 2014
- Dec 8 Parma Hilton Historical Society
- Jan 22 Kiwanis Club of Rochester
- Feb 3 Walworth Lions Club
- Mar 18 P.E.O. Chapter CB
- May 23 Patriotic Pianofest Benefit Concert



Many thanks to Stars & Stripes for sponsoring their 4th Annual VeteRun on Veterans Day to benefit HFR! Some of the Stars & Stripes members are shown above with HFR Veteran George Haines. Below are some of the more than 200 runners who participated. Winners in each age group received beautiful Stars & Stripes dog tags.



## 2015 Flying Schedule



- May 2/3 Mission 40
- May 30/31 Mission 41

The annual ROC the Day fundraiser will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On-line donations can be for **any** amount, and funds designated for **Honor Flight Rochester** will come directly to us.

Please help spread the word to your friends and families. Thanks!

[www.ROcTheDay.org](http://www.ROcTheDay.org)

### Letters from Veterans & Their Families



*"Thank you for giving my husband Harold and son Nate the thrill of their lifetime, especially our son who saw and learned what his father and all the others gave (so he could have the wonderful life he has).*

Enclosed is a check to help others enjoy their trips.

To all the volunteers who give their time, you are all very special. Again, thank you.

P.S. I would like to volunteer. How do I apply?"

# A Message from Rich

As we are fast approaching the end of the year, I would like to thank all our volunteers for a very successful 2014. Your masterful efforts through our seven missions helped transport 315 veterans to visit and reflect at their memorials. For the full year the overall split was about 50 - 50 between veterans of World War II and the Korean War. Also, there were two veterans from the Vietnam War. In the six years since the founding of the Rochester hub, there have been 39 missions carrying a total of 1,807 veterans. Each mission builds on the success of the prior mission.



Honor Flight Rochester's volunteers are quite active in their outreach to the community. We have a very active Speakers Bureau and Events Team. They spread the word of what we do and this invariably leads to more veterans signed up and more funds raised. This past year I went to many events and here is a sampling of them: Leroy High School Basketball Honor Flight Night, Greece Athena High School Miss Saigon Performance, Honor Flight Week in Victor, Fairport Canal Days, National Warplane Museum-Geneseo Airshow, Spurr Dealership Cruise-in Car Show, Ontario Health Facility Book Presentation, Hobart Football Game for Honor Flight, Nazareth College Office of Veterans Affairs-Prime Time Brass Concert, Rochester Regional Veterans Business Council Awards Luncheon, Amerks Veterans Military Appreciation Night, Stars and Stripes 5K Vet Run, Greece Performing Arts Society-Veterans Day Concert, Monroe County Veterans Agency Outreach at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Victor Hills Country Club Golf Tournament, Frances McCabe Golf Tournament at Braemar Country Club, Lakeshore Country Club Golf Tournament and the Tahou Cup at Ravenwood.

What HFR does for veterans is well known and in fact during October two awards were received. On October 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Operations John Burns accepted for HFR the **Organization of the Year Award** at the Serve Honor Support Symposium for veterans helping veterans. The symposium was organized by CDS Monarch through their "Warriors Salute" service, Nazareth College and the Monroe County Office of Veterans Affairs. And on October 29<sup>th</sup> Chairman Peter Glennon accepted for HFR the **Veterans Service Champion Award** at the 2014 Business Expo and Matchmaker coordinated by the Rochester Regional Veterans Business Council and the Monroe County Finger Lakes Procurement and Technical Assistance Center. The sponsoring company for the HFR award was L-3 Communications GCS.

We are well positioned for the coming year. May your holidays be bright.

Thank you volunteers.

Rich Stewart  
President

Have a question, comment,  
or something to share?

DROP US A LINE!

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Thank  
a  
Veteran!