



HONOR FLIGHT®

ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS EDITION:

LATEST NEWS

HFR Vets Travel to Europe

BK Bake Sale for HFR

Help Identify Korean War Veterans

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jen Wylie

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Spring Flying Schedule

Talks & Ground Events

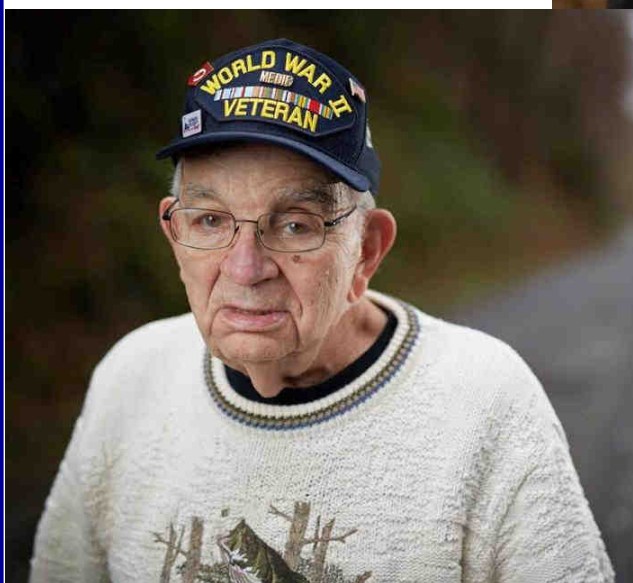
MAIL BAG

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Battle of the Bulge 70th Anniversary Trip

Two of our HFR veterans, Jack Foy (*right*) and Peter DuPre ("Harmonic Pete") recently traveled to Europe with The Greatest Generations Foundation in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. The U.S. lost 19,000 servicemen during the forty day battle.

Jack (*right*) and Pete (*below*) were able to visit many areas including the Belgian town of Tillet (west of Bastogne) where Jack's unit had its heaviest fighting. Several of the children Jack met there told him "My grandfather told me about you guys".



Both veterans were personally introduced to the King and Queen of Belgium. They visited the museum in Bastogne and participated in ceremonies honoring their fallen comrades. Pete and Jack visited Hamm Cemetery where Gen. Patton and more than 5,000 American soldiers are buried. They were also awarded Luxembourg's Legion of Honor medals.

They also participated in a memorial service at the site of the Malmédy Massacre, where 81 unarmed

American POWs from Battery B of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion were shot and bludgeoned in the worst atrocity of the war in Europe. During the service, Jack said a prayer and Pete played *Amazing Grace* on his harmonica.

Photos by John Riedy, Director of Photography, The Greatest Generation Foundation.

Latest News

Bishop Kearney's National Jr. Honor Society Holds Bake Sales to Benefit HFR

by Rick Meier

What a sweet treat!

The 12 freshmen students in the Bishop Kearney High School's 2014-2015 Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society held a bake sale to raise funds for Honor Flight Rochester.

On December 17th, the students presented a check and a thank you card to all HFR volunteers to HFR Speaker's Bureau Coordinator Larry Strassner. "It was fantastic," said Larry. "The students were so polite and emotional, especially when I showed them the short DVD of Mission 14." Larry presented the students with HFR car stickers and pens.

"These students took it upon themselves to hold a three-day long bake sale and collected the money to donate to HFR," said BK teacher and chapter advisor Ms. Jessica Prinzing. "The students all agreed this was a fantastic experience and enjoyed Larry's presentation on Honor Flight Rochester."

"It is most gratifying that these students are recognizing our veterans who sacrificed so much for our country," said HFR President Rich Stewart.

The NJHS students look forward to attending one of the "Welcome Home" events that HFR has planned for this spring.



HFR's Speaker's Bureau Coordinator Larry Strassner (far left) with Bishop Kearney High School's 2014-2015 Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society members.

At the far right is Jessica Prinzing, the chapter's advisor .

Help Identify Korean War Veterans

Betty Perkins-Carpenter, a Korean war veteran who traveled with HFR on Mission 35, is leading an effort to identify veterans in photos taken by the Department of Defense between June and August of 1950. The back of each photo tells where it was taken or what was happening.

Please the website koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com to see if your family members or friends are in the photographs. If you can identify one of the veterans, please contact Betty at (585) 586-7548. A veteran or his/her family will receive a copy of the photo at no cost. Thanks for your help!

"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: Jen Wylie

Jen Wylie's first flight for Honor Flight Rochester was a total surprise. If you have seen the group photo from Mission 20, you may have noticed one yellow Ground Crew t-shirt amid a sea of orange shirts. When a female veteran's guardian could not travel at the last minute, Jen volunteered—despite not having so much as a toothbrush to take with her—so that the veteran could still go. After that experience, Jen decided to keep a “go bag” in her car, and her preparation paid off on Mission 24. Jen says that both trips were unexpected but still very enjoyable.



In 2009, Jen saw a “Volunteers Needed” ad by HFR in the newspaper so she signed up to help out at Welcome Homes. She had just gotten married and was transitioning from being a television news director to a new career as a teacher. Jen now coordinates Welcome Homes with Pat Mason, whom she describes as “a very hard worker who always gets people the posts that they want”. According to her, “Pat is a lot of fun and keeps me laughing”. Jen oversees Welcome Home and schedules everything that happens in the International Room (M.C., bands, speakers, etc.) and “always goes to the gate to welcome the veterans—it is my favorite part”.

In addition to her work on Welcome Home and Departure, Jen takes tons of photos for HFR, participates in our Speakers Bureau, and volunteers for various ground events. She says that her favorite part of volunteering for HFR is the veterans, and adds that “being around them is magical

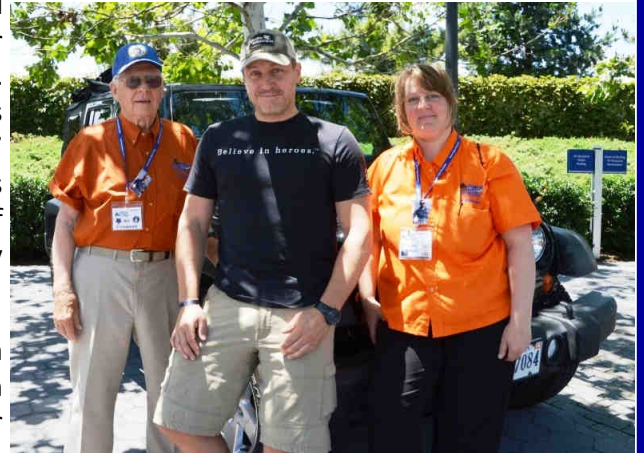
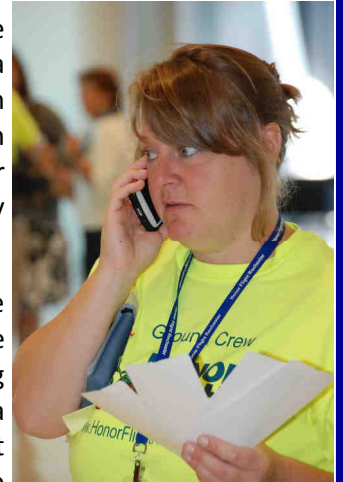
and I hope some of their greatness rubs off on me”. Jen recently received HFR's “Volunteer of the Year” award (*above left*) which is now named in honor of former president Woody Mench.

Jen also traveled as a guardian with her dad on Mission 35 (*left*). Her brother Lee who lives in DC was able to join them in touring the memorials (*right*).

Jen's husband Mark is also both a teacher and

an HFR volunteer. He flew as a guardian for his grandpa a couple of years ago (*right*), who is pictured here with Mark and Jen. The missions with Jen's dad and Mark's grandpa were both on Father's Day which was a bonus.

Jen teaches first grade at Pinnacle School (#35) on Monroe Avenue. She also volunteers for an animal rescue organization and enjoys travel.



Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!

VICTOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

VICTOR HILLS GOLF COURSE
(South Course)

SUNDAY May 24, 2015



**I SUPPORT
HONOR FLIGHT
ROCHESTER
AMERICAN VETERANS**

\$90.00 per person

Registration 9:00-10:00 am

Flag Raising 10:05 am

Shotgun Start • Scramble 10:30 am

Outside Grill Open All Day 10-4 pm

Picnic Style Buffet 4:00 pm

Closing Ceremonies 5:15 pm

Find Us on Facebook:
Victor Merchants Group Honor Flight
Rochester Golf Tournament

For More Information:
Jack Dianetti - 924-0700 - jrdianetti@aol.com
Tim Maher - 924-5118 - tmaher@rochester.rr.com
Mike Guinan - 924-3565 - mguinan@rochester.rr.com

Hole in One Contests

Putting Contests

Raffles

Door Prizes

Place Prizes

50-50 Raffle

Longest Drive & more!





2015 Flying Schedule



May 2/3 Mission 40
May 30/31 Mission 41
June 20/21 Mission 42

Ultimate Brass-tacular Concert

The Prime Time Brass benefit concert will be on
Sunday, August 16th
Noon to 7 pm
Greece American Legion Post #468 Festival Tent
Details to follow

Mark your calendars now!

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

Feb 3	Walworth Lions Club
Feb 11	Wolcott VFW
Feb 19	Bus. Owners Mgmt. Assn. (BOMA)
Mar 18	P.E.O. Chapter CB
Mar 21	Gates-Chili Hike for Heroes
Mar 25	HFR Volunteer Kickoff
May 16	Greece Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
May 23	Patriotic Pianofest Benefit Concert
May 24	Victor Hills Golf Tourney for HFR
May 24	Irondequoit Memorial Day Parade
May 25	Fairport Memorial Day Parade
Jun 6-7	Fairport Canal Days
Jul 18	Braemar Golf Tourney for HFR
Aug 16	PTB Benefit Concert for HFR
Sept 8	BOMA Golf Tourney

Letters from Veterans & Their Families



"I cannot thank you enough for taking me along on Honor Flight #38. From start to finish, you made the event truly honorable.

I will never forget the long gauntlet of cheering and honoring people at both the Baltimore and Rochester airports.

Nor will I forget the fellowship of the veterans and the caring of all volunteers who let us explore each memorial and who expertly handled all of those wheelchairs.

The closing address given by John White was both moving and inspiring.

Thanks and bless all of you."

A Message from Rich

With the onset of 2015 upon us, Honor Flight Rochester is well underway for another great year.

First, please join me in congratulating Jen Wylie who received the Woody Mench Volunteer of the Year Award. Woody was a co-founder, president and inspiration to all of us. Jen exemplifies Woody's dedication to veterans. She is tireless in her efforts.

Also, I am pleased to announce that Honor Flight Rochester has been selected as "Charity of the Year" by the Rochester Chapter of BOMA which is the Building Owners and Managers Association. Their members represent commercial real estate. Honor Flight Rochester is honored by this recognition and welcomes their support.



As always, Honor Flight Rochester continues to focus our efforts on flights and raising money to pay for them. This year we will conduct six missions with two in May, one in June and three in the fall. We pride ourselves in providing our veterans that long delayed thank you. Through our speakers bureau and events volunteers we will continue to keep our visibility high in front of organizations and individuals who provide funds for our flights. Our volunteers are excellent ambassadors.

Over the past eight years community support for Honor Flight Rochester has continued to grow. I attribute this to our volunteers' sincere interest in veterans and the generosity from the greater Rochester community.

Further, I would like to mention that this past year we received a compelling request from Betty Perkins-Carpenter of Mission 35. She asked for HFR to help spread the word to Korean War veterans and their families that more than one hundred photographs of unidentified veterans are on the web. The opportunity is to help identify these veterans. This request has been made nationally in *USA Today* and locally in the *Democrat and Chronicle*. Our hope is that more veterans will be identified. This can bring great enjoyment to the families of the veterans. Also the photos are very interesting by themselves. Please see the article on **page 2** of this newsletter for more details.

Rich Stewart
President

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

DROP US A LINE!

VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com

**Thank
a
Veteran!**