



HONOR FLIGHT®

ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

AUGUST 2015

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Summer is Here!

With Summer in full swing, the Spring flying season is behind us and the Fall missions are quickly approaching! This is a great time to remember that Honor Flight Rochester has so much more going on in addition to our Spring and Fall flights. There are many ways to become involved, help out and take part in one or more of our many events. These are the things that keep us active in the community and allow us to build toward future missions.

We are actively seeking applications from our area veterans, and we need all the help we can get from our great network of volunteers. Take a look at the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter for our calendar of events, and keep an eye on your email inbox for announcements of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

We hope you are having a fun and safe Summer, and we thank you for all the hard work you are all doing to keep Honor Flight Rochester going strong!

Below are some photos from July events, including the Braemar Country Club Golf Tournament to benefit HFR and the Geneseo Air Show. See the following pages for more!



More Summer Events

Best Ever Victor Week for Honor Flight Rochester!

This year from May 8 to 15 Victor merchants, organizations, vendors, residents and supporters raised funds to send 41 veterans to Washington, D.C. This brings the cumulative four year totals from Victor up to 102 veterans funded. Or said another way, Victor's efforts have paid for two full missions of veterans! Included in these totals are the results from the Victor Hills Golf Club Tournament benefiting HFR, which has been held the past two years with great success. Thank you Mike Stockman and Victor for your generous support of our veterans.

On Monday, June 22, the check was presented to HFR President Rich Stewart by event organizer Mike Stockman, who stated that the goal in 2012 was to raise enough money to send at least one veteran to Washington, D.C. That goal was clearly exceeded, and has been far surpassed in the 3 years since.

Photo by Frank Vavrck:
Mike Stockman, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation with Rich Stewart, President of HFR at Victor Town Hall on June 22, 2015.



Battle of the Bulge Memorial Day Ceremony

On Memorial Day, May 25, 2015 a special Battle of the Bulge Memorial Ceremony was held at Ontario Beach Park in Charlotte. At the ceremony, three local veterans were honored for their service in WWII. John Cipolla of Greece, Anthony Nardone of Webster, and Jack Foy of Charlotte were all awarded the rank of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor. This award, France's highest, was presented on behalf of French President Monsieur Francoise Hollande by French Consul Pascal Soares.

Jack Foy, co-founder of the local Battle of the Bulge Veterans group, also recently traveled to Europe for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, which you can read more about on the following page.

Photos courtesy of
Bonnie Stewart



A Tribute to Dick Brookins

MEMORIAL DAY 2015



I was very fortunate this past year. I was able to travel to our old battle grounds in Europe -- twice. First in June to the invasion beaches of Normandy for the 70th anniversary of D-Day, and then again in December to Belgium and Luxembourg for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. There were 20 men in our group sponsored by the Greatest Generation Foundation.

We were treated with great respect and honor wherever we went. We were the first to board airline flights, and anywhere there was a line we were sent through first, -- people stood and clapped as we went by.

It was very emotional visiting the places we fought 70 years ago and remembering all the comrades we lost there. "My machine gun foxhole was over there -- Harvey was killed there, -- Finn, West and Porzio were killed over there," -- it was very hard.

There was one thing that really surprised me. I became very famous in the small towns of Luxembourg. Not because of anything I did, but because of a friend I have.

Our first stop in Luxembourg was the large American cemetery in Hamm where thousands of the American soldiers Killed in Action in the Battle of the Bulge are buried. Some of us were awarded the Luxembourg Legion of Honor by the officials. I was the first one called up, --- as they told me --- because they were ordered to by a very important person --- Saint Nicholas --- otherwise known as Dick Brookins. He had been there a week or so before, at the invitation of the people of Wiltz, and he knew that I was coming over. Most of you know of Dick's experience as St. Nicholas in the town of Wiltz in early December 1944. It was such a beautiful and wonderful experience for the people of Wiltz in the midst of the horrors of war. Dick was chosen by the men of his 28th Infantry Division unit to play St. Nicholas for the children of the town. It was such a beautiful and peaceful affair in the middle of a horrible war that it made the news and the theater News Reels of the day. There was even a book written about it, "The American St. Nick". After the war the people of Wiltz found Dick again and have invited him back several times. They even love him so much they put a statue of him in the town square.



Everywhere I went the call went out "This guy is a friend of Dick Brookins," and I immediately became a very important person in those towns, even in the nearby city of Bastogne.

As an American veteran of the war in Europe, (there aren't many of us left), I met many important people -- I had tea with the Queen of England -- shook hands with the President of France, --- sat by the President of the U.S. at the Omaha Beach D-Day ceremony, -- was greeted by the King and Queen of Belgium at the end of a snowy parade in Bastogne -- had lunch with them and a nice talk -- but all this paled when compared with knowing and being a friend of Dick Brookins. Many of us have been on the TV and the news -- but Dick !! -- a statue in the town square!!



I want you to know that Dick is also a very important person in our town right here. He was the prime mover in establishing our local chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge about 20 years ago with the help of a couple of other veterans.

SO -- on behalf of all your fellow Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge assembled here and those who are unable to be here -- THANK YOU DICK!!

By Jack Foy

Peter Glennon Honored

Air Force veteran, and Honor Flight Rochester co-founder, Maj. Peter Glennon was presented the Lord Howard Award, and honor bestowed by the Naval Reserve Officers' Mess (NROM) during a ceremony that took place at the Rochester Yacht Club on June 5, 2015. Peter was chosen as recipient of the Lord Howard Award due to his role in helping establish Honor Flight Rochester, as well as his continued support and leadership within the organization. A description of the award and certificate can be seen below.

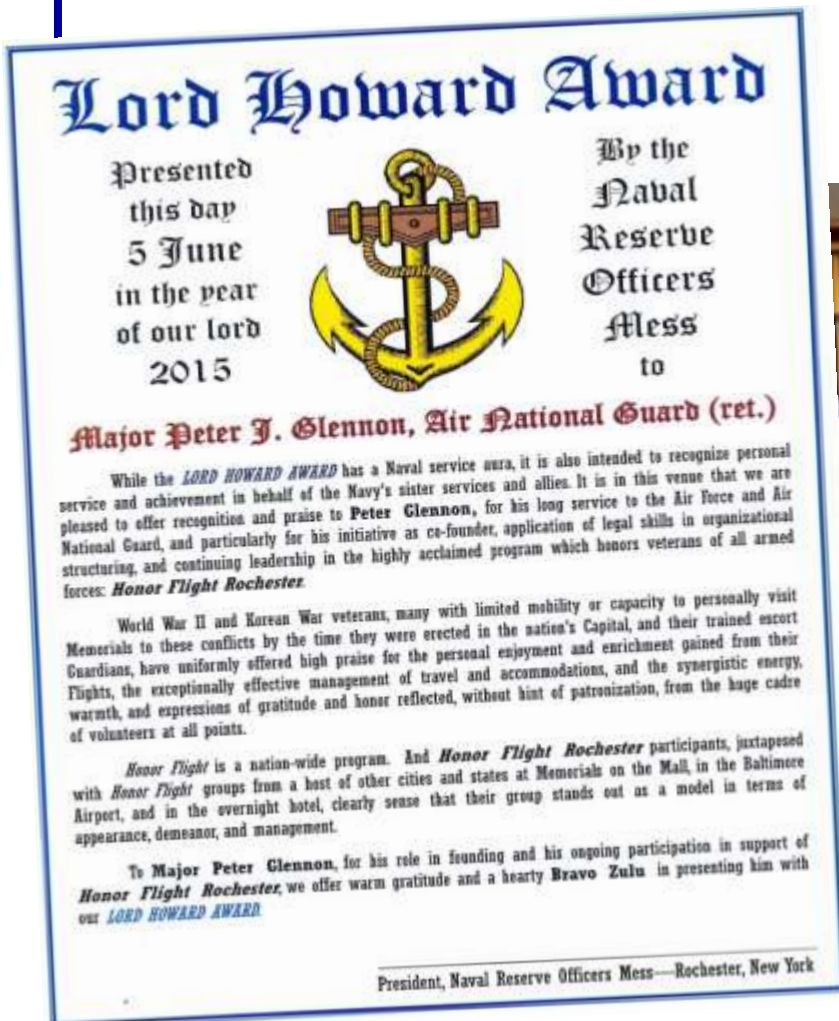
Naval Reserve Officers Mess

The Lord Howard Award

The Naval Reserve Officers Mess Lord Howard Award is named for the Lords Howard of British Naval fame, the first of which was Sir Edward Howard, Admiral of England. He distinguished himself in the war with France and Spain. He died in battle at sea in 1513. He was the mastermind behind Henry VIII's successful navy.

The Howard clan served with distinction. Their relatives included Queen Katherine Howard, Queen Ann Boleyn, Queen Elizabeth I, and Lord Charles Howard, who was the Lord High Admiral of England during the battle with the Spanish Armada in 1588. His use of the fouled anchor design led to it being used on most cap badges of Navies worldwide.

The **Lord Howard Award** is made in recognition of personal achievement and effort in support of the goals of the US Navy and its sister services and allies.



Peter Glennon (far right) along with other honorees, and Maj Gen. Dennis Lutz, event coordinator (far left) Photo courtesy of John Braund (not pictured) , who presented the award.



Veteran Memories—Michael (Mike) Perri

Michael (Mike) Perri was drafted by the U.S. Army many times but kept getting rejected because of his poor vision. Instead, he contributed to the war effort by building military parts at Kodak. Eventually the Army started calling up “limited service” draftees and he served from 1945 to 1947 as company clerk to his unit at three different bases in New Jersey. While there, he processed officers’ discharges and later went to Ft. Dupont in Delaware to help close that down.

After leaving the Army, Mike went back to Kodak and stayed there until he retired 41½ years later. He worked in the Camera Works and did buffing and plating in Metal Works. In retrospect, Mike says “We didn’t realize how great we had it at Kodak back then.” Mike and his late wife Mary were married for 54 years and have three grown daughters. One daughter, Janice, lives in this area and the other two live in Nashville.

Several of Mike’s friends had traveled on Honor Flight Rochester missions and kept after him to go. Eventually, he asked Janice to get an application for him, and they flew together on Mission 15, April 9-10, 2011. Unfortunately the weather was not very cooperative during their mission.

It rained so hard after the WWII Memorial that most veterans didn’t get off the bus at the other memorials—except for one veteran who insisted on having his picture taken at each stop. A pilot car took the veterans around Arlington Cemetery, but they were unable to see the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown.

Despite the poor weather, Mike had a great time on his trip and found it difficult to single out one favorite part. He exclaimed, “the whole thing was my favorite.” He did talk about the great reception they received at BWI, kids on bicycles coming up and saying “thank you for your service” at the WWII Memorial, getting lots of time to talk with other veterans at the banquet, receiving letters during “mail call,” and the fabulous welcome home in Rochester.

Mike has lived in the same home in Greece for 62 years. He laughed when I asked him the secret to his good health. Perhaps his secret lies in helping others. Mike volunteered at the blood unit of the Red Cross for 17 years, working at blood drives including the ones at Kodak. His late wife Mary was a patient at the nursing home at St. John’s before she passed away in 2004. After losing her, Mike began volunteering there in various roles such as working in the gift shop and providing transportation. He still volunteers there once per week in their café and is sometimes called upon for special events or to cover the gift shop. Mike says he enjoys seeing many people he met during his wife’s stay.



Mike (seated) and Janice (standing) at Victor Hills

After his Honor Flight trip, Mike wanted to ensure the same warm welcome for future veterans returning from their missions, so he and Janice signed up as volunteers. They participate in Welcome Homes, Ground Events, and Speakers Bureau. They helped out at the recent golf tournament at Victor Hills (left, photo courtesy of Jen Wylie) and at the Geneseo Air Show (photo courtesy of Heather Carvill-Henry).



Upcoming Events

2015 Flying Schedule

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Aug 1 Sampson Museum, Geneva, NY
- Aug 6 Legacy at Willow Run
- Aug 7 Lake Shore Golf Tournament
- Aug 13 Blue Heron Hills Golf Tournament
- Aug 16 PTB Benefit Concert for HFR
- Aug 23 Newark VFW
- Sept 8 BOMA Golf Tourney



- Sept 12/13 Mission 43
- Sept 26-27 Mission 44
- Oct 24/25 Mission 45

**THE
ULTIMATE BRASSTACULAR
FOR
HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2015
NOON TIL 7PM
GREECE AMERICAN LEGION POST 468**

Outdoor Festival Site and Big Tent
344 Dorsey Road, Greece NY / (585) 663-2091

*Presented by The Greece Post 468 Legion Family
Hosted by the Prime Time Brass*

Food and Drink for All Ages / Lawn Chairs Welcome
\$12 per person / \$40 Family of Four / Honor Flight Vets FREE.
Tickets at Post 468 and through performing acts.
More information at www.thehonormusicproject.org

MUSIC BY:
Prime Time Brass / St. Joes Alumni / St. Joes Reunion Brass / Ghost Riders
Bugles Across America "Salute To The Heroes"
and the Buglers Hall of Fame Salutes the:
1975 Cadets of Greece and 1975 Rochester Phoenix

Special Opening Ceremonies with the Greece Post 468 Color Guard
and the Patriot Guard Riders of WNY / Jennifer Dinolfo / and News 8's Maureen McGuire
All Drum Corps in Rochester History are invited to present a "Memories" Table!

All Proceeds to Honor Flight Rochester

www.honorflightrochester.org

The Mail Bag

Letters from Veterans & Their Families



Many thanks to all of the staff and volunteers at Honor Flight for their dedicated work to the Veterans. I flew on Mission 41 and will never forget the Welcome Home reception we received in Rochester.

A big thank you to all the guardians who loaded and unloaded the wheelchairs in the heat and made sure we were well taken care of.

You are an outstanding group.

Thank You,

I want to thank all your personnel who worked the Geneseo Air Show July 12.

I have never been treated so kindly.

My granddaughter who is 12 years old was with me and she was pleased how kind you were. Larry Strassner was one of the person's names I remember.

Thanks to all and enclosed is my paper work for the flight!

Sincerely,

John S. & Meriah M.



How, I wonder, does one say an adequate thanks for the experience of an Honor Flight? The support and leadership of hundreds of volunteers and leaders – on and off the mission: e.g. John, Larry, Chuck, Jocey, Dodd and dozens of others. Experiencing all the memorials; ALL UNBELIEVABLE!!!!

Only way I have is to be a financial supporter and attend Homecoming Ceremonies, which I'll continue to do both!

Thanks again & God bless everyone,

Herb H.

PS: The lap robe is in use every day – US Navy. The group photo is part of my album of the mission.

PPS: I answered all the letters I received at mail call!!

A Message from Rich



Please join me in congratulating Dave Timmons on becoming our new Secretary of Honor Flight Rochester. This is an officer's position voted on by the Board and his responsibilities include records and all official correspondence. He attends both Leadership Team and Board meetings. As a long term volunteer Dave has led missions and developed/conducted volunteer orientation training. Dave replaces Frank Vavrck who has handled this position on an interim basis since the passing of Michele Unger. And a special thank you to Frank for all he did as Secretary while handling his regular position as Treasurer. Frank will continue as Treasurer.

Kudos to Peter Glennon HFR Chairman of the Board of Directors on receiving the prestigious Lord Howard Award presented on June 5th by the Reserve Officers Association and the Naval Reserve Officers Mess for his role in co-founding and his continuing support of Honor Flight Rochester. Peter also serves as our Legal Counsel.

Through the efforts of our volunteers we have had a great summer so far with Honor Flight Rochester receiving strong community support. The month of June gave us the opportunity to partake in the Fairport Canal Days, Williamson Jazz in the Park (held in Pultneyville) and the Greece Strawberry and Dessert Tasting Festival. And in July there has been the National War Plane Museum Airshow in Geneseo, the Lima American Legion Post 282 Annual Bike and Car Show, Frances McCabe's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Braemar Country Club, the Hemlock Little World's Fair and the Spurr Dealership Cruise-in Car Show. This is only a partial list.

There is still plenty of summer left, so I encourage you to consider some of our upcoming ground events. For those of you who are golfers on August 7th Lake Shore Country Club will be holding their 3rd Annual Tournament for the benefit of HFR and from August 13th to 16th the Blue Heron Hills Golf Tournament takes place. Also on August 16th there will be the Ultimate Brasstacular hosted by Prime Time Brass at Greece American Legion Post 468.

Thank you volunteers for your great job in making Honor Flight Rochester the organization it is today.

Rich Stewart
President

Have a question, comment, or something to share?
DROP US A LINE!
VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com

Thank a
Veteran!

This newsletter is brought to you by the Volunteer Resource Committee.