



HONOR FLIGHT®

ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

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Fall Flying Season

We are in the midst of another great Fall flying season, with two flights complete and one more to go. We have now flown more than 2000 veterans to Washington, DC to see their memorials, a milestone that was reached this season with Mission 43, September 12.

This accomplishment is a testament to the great volunteers we have, the amazing leadership, and the Honor Flight network as a whole. We all have the same goal: to give every veteran possible the opportunity to see his or her memorials in Washington. With that goal in mind, this is the time we need to make an extra effort! Spread the word about Honor Flight.

We would like nothing more than to make contact with every veteran possible, and to get them signed up to fly. If you know a veteran, tell them how they can apply. If you know someone whose parent or grandparent or aunt or uncle or neighbor is a veteran, tell them how to apply as a guardian. Let them know how important and special the guardian role is to our Missions. We cannot do this without you!

And here is the result of all of your hard work and dedication; below and on the following page are photos from Missions 43 and 44.



Mission 43 and 44 Photos



Latest News

Pianofest a Huge Success!

The Rochester Piano Teachers' Guild created the PATRIOTIC PIANOFEST as a benefit concert for Honor Flight Rochester. 170 piano students from all over the county performed in a 21 piano orchestra. Two students, four hands, were at each piano for every piece on the program. All the students dedicated six months of their time, practice and weekends for veterans, met as strangers and worked together to raise funds for Honor Flight Rochester.

Proceeds of the first PATRIOTIC PIANOFEST will send 29 veterans to Washington, D.C.



Volunteer Veteran Status Survey:

Volunteers, you may have received a survey via email, regarding your veteran status.

We know many of our volunteers have served in the military. We have decided to send this survey in an attempt to include this information on our volunteer roster. We are not asking for service branch or any other specifics. We simply want to determine who has prior military service.

Note that some of our volunteers previously noted their veteran status. In an attempt to reduce sending unnecessary emails we have excluded them from this survey.

Please complete the survey by **October 8th**. Thank you for your participation!

Honor Flight Leader needed for post-mission mailing to Veterans

Another survey was emailed out, regarding the following:

After each Honor Flight Mission, Veterans who flew on that Mission receive a variety of items including pictures taken during the mission, a letter from the President and a "stay connected" card.

We are in need of a person who would be willing to take over as leader of the post Mission mailing. Specifically this person will;

- Create an addressed envelope for each Veteran
- Print and insert the letter from the President
- Sort and insert pictures relevant to each Vet.
- Insert a preprinted stay connected card
- Insert a Library of Congress Living History brochure
- Apply postage and mail items
- Expenses for envelopes and postage can be reimbursed by Honor Flight if desired.

Please respond to this Survey Monkey if you are interested in becoming the Leader of this activity. Training will be provided.

Please complete the survey by **October 8th** if you are interested!

Veteran Tribute

Welcome Home

Thank you Veterans on this day.
You should have been welcomed along the way.

So many of you gave your heart and soul.
The war in your day took many a toll.

To see your faces now all lit up with smiles.
We know that you walked ten thousand miles.

From heartache to bloodshed to foxholes so small.
You should know now that you can walk tall.

Who would have known way back when...
Each and every soldier should have been thanked
over and over again.

Many a year has gone by since that war.
Many a soldier should have been thanked long before.

You stand for Freedom and Liberty
it's the American way.

That's why we say "THANK YOU" to you on this day.

By Dianne Wallenhorst

Member of:

American Legion Auxiliary (Greece Post 468)

American Legion Riders (Greece Post 468)

Patriot Guard Riders

"In memory of my father"
US Merchant Marine, World War II
CDR Lawrence W. Steele, USNR



Veteran Memories—John Griffin

John Griffin was married with two children and working for GE on its war efforts when his deferment of the draft ended. He entered the Army in 1944 and was stationed at Ft. Devens, MA. Six weeks of basic training provided John an opportunity to study Army Regulation. Because of an excellent memory, he was assigned to the regimental HQ as the clerk for the Trial Judge Adjutant (TJA).

After the deactivation of Ft. Devens, John chose to go to the School of Ordnance at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. After his training, he received special orders to go to the Sierra Ordnance Depot in California. Upon arrival, John was directed to help address the costly problems of delays in receiving, storing, and shipping ordnance. Labor was being performed in a very unregulated/unprogrammed fashion by soldiers from the Pacific awaiting discharge, civilian employees, and POWs. Details of the remedies were many; however, John's first concern was his "buddies". After talking with their superiors, a plan was put in place to give weekend furloughs to those who showed interest in fulfilling assignments. They were also provided with transportation to Reno where USO activities were extraordinary. Needless to say, competition prevailed and the problem was solved! Other problems John helped to remedy were a shortage of barracks, soldiers eating out of mess-kits, and assignments of POWs. Through his suggestion, the POWs were removed from Sierra to points unknown.

When his period of service was coming to an end, John was presented with the Commander's Certificate of Appreciation and was encouraged to return to Sierra (not GE) to consider a position with the Department of the Army. After discharge, John returned to Sierra in January 1946 and began his U.S. service as a bonded Property Officer. He also served as a member of the Post Restaurant Council and as a weekly columnist for the Depot's newspaper.

John moved to Detroit in 1948 and received his first real estate license. He applied for government reinstatement in 1949 and was assigned to the Detroit Arsenal which made tanks. John started as a chaser (made sure every production line station had sufficient materiel), then became production expediter (made sure all components were made in time for assembly), and ended as production planner. He then transferred to the Air Force and got his first white collar job as an Industrial Property Administrator, overseeing all types of industrial contracts (e.g., Army, Air Force, FAA, etc.).

John came to Rochester in 1955 to work at the Rochester Ordnance District in the Sibley Tower to assist the district in closing out war contracts. Authorization from the comptroller allowed him a blank check to travel where necessary to accomplish his mission. An employee named Mattie Sandford made all of his travel arrangements. Eventually they met and they had been married for 42 years when she passed away in 1999 in Atlanta during their retirement.

John traveled to DC with HFR on Mission 26 in October 2012. His son John Jr., who lives in Atlanta, served as his guardian. When asked about his favorite part, John replied, "Every part of it!" and mentioned seeing the Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial and other sites including the Arlington National Cemetery. John exclaimed, "Honor Flight brought me back to reality" and says our "volunteers are something else". He has joined our ranks (*left*, at last year's VeteRun) and is looking forward to the upcoming "Elvis Night" fundraiser.

John's two other sons were veterans. Jerome (a Marine in Viet Nam), and Bill (a Navy veteran), predeceased him. His daughter Joy lives in Las Vegas, and there are now 5 living generations of his family with a total of 13 grandchildren, innumerable great-grandchildren, and a half dozen great-great-grandchildren.



The Mail Bag



Letters from Veterans & Their Families

Dear Honor Flight,

My name is Earl, and I was honored and privileged to have been a member of Honor Flight Mission 41 this past May 30th. Due to circumstances beyond my control, and the lapse of time, I apologize for not being in touch with you beautiful people.

I must tell you, that was the most beautiful weekend of my entire life, I'll never forget it as will my mentor and daughter-in-law Mary.

Enclosed is a check as my donation to the HF of Rochester. It is not much, but it might help a little.

Thank you,

Earl

Dear HFR,

I would like at this time send you my whole hearted "THANK YOU" for the fine trip to Washington to see the Memorials. I would not have been able to see them without your help. You and your team were the greatest in the organization of this flight. With the buses and the Memorial sites as well as the airports. I wish I could shake all their hands personally. You do not find many people that will give the time for this kind of operation.

I am going to answer all those letters that the school kids sent me. I will enclose a picture of me so that they can reflect on what an important thing this was for them to Honor us Veterans.

I also want to commend the sponsors and family members that escorted us around this tour and put up with our needs. They where the best! The airlines and the bus companies did the best for us too.

I will never forget what you have done for me and my son and will pass on my experiences to other Veterans who should take advantage of this great time in their lives.

May the good Lord keep you going with this program forever. I will never forget you and your team of volunteers.

Sincerely,

William

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- Oct 3 Elvis Night
- Oct 9 Tahou Cup Golf Tournament
- Oct 17 100th Anniversary at VFW Post 16
- Oct 22 *Osher /Pfaudler Speaking Program*
- Oct 24 Hobart College Football Game
- Oct 27 *Chapel Oaks Senior Living*
- Nov 4 *Avon Lions/Lioness Club*
- Nov 6 Amerks Military Appreciation Night
- Nov 11 Stars and Stripes 5k Run
- Nov 11 *Church of Assumption*
- Nov 18 *Fleming Point*
- Nov 20 Skycoaster's Tail Gate Party

*(Talks in italics)

2015 Flying Schedule



Oct 24/25 Mission 45

Please visit our website for information about the Spring Missions and Welcome Homes!



5K VeteRun Registration Form

5th Annual Stars & Stripes 5K VeteRun & Kids' 1K Fun Run

Veterans' Day Wednesday, November 11, 2015
 5K start time: 11:00 am
 Kids' 1K Fun Run start time: 11:45 am

Proceeds Support:
 Honor Flight Rochester, Inc.
honorflightrochester.org
 and other veterans-related organizations

Race Fee:
 Postmarked by November 3, 2015: \$25
 After November 3rd: \$30
 Veterans: \$10
 Kids' 1K Fun Run: \$5/kid (recommended for ages 10 and under)

Send Completed Form and Payment to:
 Stars and Stripes 5K VeteRun
 PO Box 572
 Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

Or register online:
www.veterun5K.com

Race Information:
 Pre-race packet pickup at Fleet Feet Sports at the Armory. (155 Culver Road.)
 Nov. 10th 12-6pm
 Packet Pickup and Day-Of Registration begins at 9:00 am.
 Overall Male and Female Winners!
 Age Groups Male and Female Divisions: 10 and under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

Walkers Welcome!
 "Spirit Award" for Male and Female!
 T-shirts to the first 175 registered in the 5K.
 Great prizes & free food post-race.

Starting Location:
 Stewart Lodge, Mendon Ponds Park (Douglas Road)

Race Website: www.veterun5K.com
 Like us on Facebook to see the latest news!

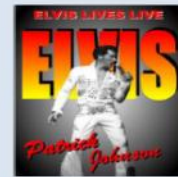


HONOR FLIGHT FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 3, 2015
 7PM
 DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
 BARNARD EXEMPTS, 360 MAIDEN LANE 14616



FEATURING PATRICK JOHNSON - ELVIS IMPERSONATOR.
 CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE TOP TRIBUTE ARTISTS IN THE COUNTRY.
 HE WILL BE HERE ENTERTAINING - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!



DOOR PRIZES AND 50/50 RAFFLE

TICKETS \$13.00

YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
 FROM KAREN GERRISH (COORDINATOR) - 467-9002
 4260 CULVER RD. #228 ROCHESTER N.Y. 14622*
 BARNARD EXEMPT 360 MAIDEN LANE
 FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR A NOMINAL FEE



Don't forget to wear your **RED WHITE & BLUE!** FOR THE SPIRIT AWARD for male and female participants.

FLEET FEET Sports



A Message from Rich



Thank you to volunteers! Over the eight years since the founding of Honor Flight Rochester, 44 missions have been flown, transporting 2067 veterans to their memorials in Washington, D.C. And later in October we will fly one more time this year. This success is due to you our volunteers. You spread the word throughout our communities encouraging applications be submitted and donations be made. You plan and implement every aspect of our missions. Because of you our veterans receive the best experience possible.

While there are some World War II able veterans yet to take their Honor Flights, on this year's missions most of the seats are filled by Korean War veterans. For our veterans from these eras, let us take another look to make sure that we have not missed asking anyone who is able about taking their trip of a lifetime. In the greater Rochester area there are many Korean War veterans who have not filled out an Honor Flight application. Please help them sign up. Those from the oldest wars travel first. It is my hope that in time all veterans will take their Honor Flights.

On another note, I am pleased to announce two organizational changes involving our PR/Media area. First, Rick Meier has been promoted to the newly created position of Vice President of PR/Media. Over his years with HFR, Rick has provided masterful leadership of our public relations and media efforts. Second, volunteer Neil Fagenbaum has been named as Coordinator of PR/Media and will be a member of our Leadership Team reporting to Rick. Neil is a career professional and presently Director of Advancement Communications Services at URMC. Please join me in congratulating Rick and Neil on their new appointments.

Finally during August and September there were a number of fund-raisers which help keep our missions flying including golf tournaments, concerts and other activities. The golf tournaments in August were at Lake Shore Country Club and at The Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills while the September tournament was put on by the Building Owners and Managers Association at Lima Country Club. The Ultimate Brasstacular was the Prime Time Brass concert presented by the Greece American Legion Post 468. And in Newark the American War Dads put on a concert at VFW Post 2883. As for other activities, they included the Rochester Piano Teachers' Guild check presentation ceremony at Potter Place in Fairport for the Patriotic Piano-fest held three months earlier, the Air Force Reunion at the Sampson Museum and the Avon American Legion Food Truck Rodeo. I want to say thank you to the organizers of these events and to everyone who participated.

Best regards,

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.