



HONOR FLIGHT®

ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

FALL 2017

IN THIS EDITION:

**Missions
52 & 53**

Soaring Valor

**Apparel
Printers Plus**

**Thank You
Victor**

**Congrats
Dave**

Help Wanted

Mailbag

**Upcoming
Events**

**President's
Column**

A Memorable Scene

During Mission 54, two Air Force veterans—who were at the Air Force Memorial with their kids—salute our HFR veterans out of respect and admiration, as all three buses left the memorial after lunch.



Maryland Senate Honors HFR



Latest News

Mission 52



Mission 53



Latest News

Honor Flight Rochester Vets Visited WWII Museum via 'Soaring Valor'

HFR's World War II veterans 'Harmonica' Pete DuPre and George Haines received another trip of a lifetime as they were honored guests on the "Soaring Valor" program that took them on an all-expense paid trip to New Orleans to visit the world-renowned [The National WWII Museum](#).

[Soaring Valor](#) is a program funded by the Gary Sinise Foundation. Sinise is a movie and TV actor who played "Lieutenant Dan" in *Forrest Gump*. The Soaring Valor program covers all airfare, hotels, meals, and a tour of the Museum for veterans and their guardian. Each veteran is also interviewed for the Museum's oral history archives. [The Gary Sinise Foundation](#) supports a multitude of initiatives that benefit veterans and first-responders.

"It was great," said DuPre, who served as a medic in the U.S. Army stationed in England. "The Museum was outstanding. You really need more than one day to go through it. They've got quite a collection." And, yes, he brought and played his harmonica in the Museum lobby at the behest of the tour guide. His guardian on the trip was his son, Pierre.

"They showed us a wonderful time," said Haines, who served as a scout in the U.S. Army in the Pacific campaign. "It was a wonderful experience. The Museum was fantastic, unbelievably well done. It brought back many memories." Haines coordinates veteran volunteers for HFR. He was accompanied on the trip by his grandson, Matt Burton, a U.S. Navy veteran, who served on two commands during Operation Desert Storm through Operation Desert Shield, then onto Operation Restore Hope.

"The trip became possible when my grandfather met Gary Sinise while departing for a trip to Hawaii via *The Greatest Generations Foundation*," said Burton. "Gary was basically a 'Chow Runner' for all the WWII veterans on that flight. Grandpa Haines told me the story that Gary ran to the forward cabin to get him a steak, then mashed potatoes and gravy, and finally carrots. I felt it necessary to write a letter to The Gary Sinise Foundation and commend Mr. Sinise on his humbleness in taking care of our most precious veterans."

Burton received a letter in return from Sinise's executive assistant. They asked if Burton or Haines had been to The National WWII Museum. If not, would they be interested in going? All expenses paid. The foursome left Rochester on Tuesday, April 18. They spent the entire day at The National WWII Museum on Wednesday, April 19 and a half day on Thursday, April 20. The National WWII Museum (originally The National D-Day Museum) tells the story of the American experience in World War II — why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today.

Speaking of Harmonic Pete...He has been busy. He traveled to Washington, D.C. to demonstrate how a harmonica could help rehabilitate veterans with breathing issues. He threw out the first pitch at the Memorial Day game for the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball game, performed at a military film festival, attended the National Memorial Day concert as a VIP guest, played *Danny Boy* during wreath laying ceremonies at the World War II Memorial, was the honorary grand marshal in the national parade, and, finally, played a concert with the U.S. Air Force Brass Band at a hospital. *Whew.*

By Richard Meier, VP Publicity

Links

Gary Sinise Foundation: <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/>

Soaring Valor: <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/programs/soaring-valor>

National World War II Museum: <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>



George Haines.



Pictured from left, Matt Burton, George Haines, Pete DuPre.

Latest News

The following article appeared in *The Daily Messenger* (MPNnow.com) on May 6, 2017.

Apparel Printers Plus Partners with Local Charities

Apparel Printers Plus recently partnered with Honor Flight Rochester and Camp Good Days and Special Times to offer a special limited edition T-shirt to raise funds for the nonprofit organizations.

The shirts are being sold at all Canandaigua National Bank locations; Tops Friendly Market, 6179 state Route 96, Farmington; and Apparel Printers Plus, 67 E. Main St., Victor. Half of the proceeds from the \$10 shirts will benefit Honor Flight and Camp Good Days and Special Times.

“As a longtime supporter of Honor Flight and Camp Good Days and Special Times, it is terrific to have the opportunity to support these organizations and the great work they do in our community every day,” said Tim Maher, president of Apparel Printers Plus. “Our goal is to sell 1,000 shirts. This will allow more than 15 veterans to visit their war memorials in Washington, D.C., through Honor Flight Rochester. As a company, we feel it is important to give back to the community that has given us so much. Working together, we can help give veterans the opportunity to be honored in Washington and children facing life challenges the chance to enjoy summer camp. As a company, we will continue our efforts to support local charities as we grow and expand.”

“On behalf all of us at Honor Flight Rochester, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Apparel Printers Plus,” said Rich Stewart, president of Honor Flight Rochester. “Over the past six years, their generous support combined with the town of Victor has provided funds to fill three airplanes with veterans on their trips of a lifetime to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C. Also, each year we look forward with great anticipation for their new T-shirt design. They are absolutely collector’s items and avidly sought by all who are part of the HFR family.”

Camp Good Days and Special Times has served more than 46,000 campers from 22 states and 34 countries since its inception 38 years ago. The camp is offered to those with cancer and other life-threatening challenges for free.

Thanks to Victor, Honor Flight Receives Almost \$30K

The town of Victor presented a check to HFR for \$14,890 from their week-long event to support HFR in June. Donations to the annual effort came from businesses and community members. Over the last six years, Honor Flight Week has raised \$95,000 — enough to send about 190 veterans on the two-day trips of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, a check for \$15,000 was presented to HFR from the Alex P. Davis Memorial Golf Tournament, played June 4 at the Ravenwood Golf Club in Victor.



Mike Stockman, assistant director of Parks and Recreation, Town of Victor, is the leader behind Honor Flight Week.



HFR veterans during the check presentation at the Victor Town Board meeting.



Bob Davis, pictured, along with his wife, Debbie, started the Alex P. Davis Memorial Golf Tournament in memory of their son. The event, separate from Honor Flight Week, was held at Ravenwood Golf Club.

Congratulations Dave!

Dave Nichols from Hilton, N.Y. has been named chairman of the Honor Flight Network. His interest in Honor Flight began here in Rochester when he was part of Mission 2. Here are his thoughts on HFR:

I was born and raised in Hilton, NY where I lived until enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1986 as an electronic warfare technician. I separated from the USAF in 1999 and stayed in Maryland where I am a system engineer for Northrop Grumman. While finishing my degree in 2009, I was researching a paper for a WWII History course and stumbled upon Honor Flight, and saw there was a Rochester hub. I filled out a volunteer application and explained that I live near Washington, D.C. My first HFR trip was Mission 2 and I was a guardian for Gerry Metz, United States Marine Corp, who was in WWII. That's when I was bit by the Honor Flight bug, as most of us are. I went on approximately 23 other trips. I have many fantastic memories with HFR, but my favorite always goes back to Mission 2, my first trip: not knowing how to be a guardian, but having the greatest time with my first veteran.

I left HFR around 2013 to be a member of the Honor Flight National (HFN) Board of Directors, then subsequently the Chairman of the Board of HFN. Although not working directly on the HFR trips, it's always good to see the ocean of orange shirts flood off the buses while in D.C. It's great to see how well HFR operates and how successful it is. I hold a great deal of pride looking back on those early trips when we all were figuring out the processes and fine-tuning them after each trip. What a remarkable thing to be a part of. I thank you all. Keep 'em flying!!



Dave Nichols with former Senator Bob Dole.

Help Wanted

Honor Flight Rochester has incredible volunteer support, but there are still opportunities for individuals to help. This is the first of occasional articles highlighting areas of need.

“Event leaders/coordinators” – There is often a need for a leader to facilitate staffing and logistics details for HFR events. Among the responsibilities are: to notify the Merchandise Coordinator of the event date for merchandise planning, gather all event details using the assigned checklist, determine staffing levels, make staff assignments and notify your team of their responsibilities, and following the event, send a thank you e-mail to volunteers with the donation results and ask for feedback.

Among the responsibilities for event coordinators: help with the set-up and tear-down, make arrangements to return chairs, table(s), tent, and merchandise totes, and be accountable for donations.

“Speaker’s Bureau” – The primary purpose of the Bureau is to spread the word about HFR. We are always in need of presenters to speak at schools, clubs, civic organizations, and community events; many are held during the day. To qualify, you must have traveled on an HFR mission, be a volunteer on our master roster, and be willing to use a semi-scripted outline of the presentation. Travel will be in the Rochester area but could go as far as Penn Yan, Clifton Springs, or Bath. Veteran volunteers are encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in supporting these areas or have questions, please contact Larry Strassner, Events and Speaker's Bureau Director, at ljrstrassner@rochester.rr.com

Honor Flight Rochester is looking for help to transport wheelchairs to and from the Greater Rochester International Airport. When there is a mission, we need a 14-16 foot truck available on Friday at noon to pick up wheelchairs from the storage site, and then be at the airport on Sunday at 2 p.m. to return the wheelchairs. If you can help, please contact John Burns at jjbnymets@frontiernet.net.

Mailbag: Letters from Veterans

Dear Rich,

Thank you for inviting me and allowing me to participate in Honor Flight Rochester Mission 53. Obviously, it was a trip of a lifetime to get to visit the military memorials in Washington, D.C.

But it was much more than that. It was a surreal feeling to experience all of the love, respect, and dedication of each Honor Flight Rochester volunteer, including the trip managers and all of the ground crews on both ends of the trip. Please give my regards to the entire crew. We all owe Matt, the photographer, a debt of gratitude for recording this special occasion in our lives. I appreciated the remarks at the Saturday evening dinner and at the return reception.

Walking past the well-wishers at both airports was overwhelming.

I am truly amazed by the scope and detail of the entire mission with each step being executed with precision and flawless detail. I appreciated the "mail call." I have written a thank you note to each of my three students who wrote the letters.

Thank you for welcoming my daughter and guardian Kinita.

Thank you for all of it. It is an experience I will treasure the rest of my life.

Sincerely,
William



Thank you to all the Honor Flight volunteers. You are all special people.

Every now and then I look at the book I received and I see all the people that was part of the flight and my heart aches with pride.

Thanks to ALL of you!
Don

Gentlemen & Ladies,

Just a short note to thank all of you for the most memorable time I had when I was on Honor Flight Rochester Mission 52. You all went above and beyond seeing to all of our needs and showing us the awesome time of our lives. The love that you all showed was amazing.

Thank you again for everything.
Art

To all volunteers on Honor Flight Rochester Mission 52,

Thank you very much for all of your hard work and dedication to make this trip an amazing experience for all of the veterans and their guardians.

It was an emotional, overwhelming and wonderful weekend. We both loved walking around the memorials to have an opportunity to honor all of the men and women that served this great country.

Thank you again for all you did to make this a memorable trip.

**Sincerely,
Donald & Tammy**

What a trip! It was special for me, especially the Welcome Home at the airport. I cried all the way along the long line of people saying thank you.

Again, thank you ALL for a very well planned and executed trip.

Awesome job!!!
Jerome

Dear John,

I'll begin by explaining the delay in acknowledging my heartfelt appreciation for the honor and privilege of being part of the Honor Flight Rochester Mission in April. What a series of events I've experienced!

For starters, it took several days to come down to normal and process the events of that special time. That was followed by writing to each of the students from the five schools from whom I received letters in my mail call. The wonderful lap robe ladies were next on the list! A special address to the "Valley Manor" cheerleaders at the residents meeting was welcomed. That group of "aging" friends passed up Sunday brunch to board the bus and go to the airport to join the unbelievable crowd that cheered our return! It has all been so meaningful and wonderful.

The entire Honor Flight was so wonderfully organized and carried out by the greatest group of volunteers ever. It will be with me and remain a highlight and great event of this late chapter in my life!

Again, our country is experiencing a time of extreme turmoil, and we are indeed in 'troubled waters'! But we will endure, and as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "Sail On, Sail On, Oh Ship Of State." My thanks and appreciation for including me on Honor Flight!

Sincerely,
Grace

PS - I have the special Honor Flight Rochester Mission 52 photo album to indeed keep my memories 'fresh.'

Upcoming Events

- November 10 *Lifespan @ Eastside YMCA*
- November 10 *Lifespan Older Adult Center*
- November 10 Stars & Stripes 5K VeteRun
- November 11 Three Heads Brewing “Happy Hour”
- November 11 *Fleming Point Senior Living*
- November 17 Skycoasters “Turkey Bash”
- November 18 Elvis Night
- *Talks in italics



50 veterans will be able to go on a mission thanks to 5th Annual Lakeshore Golf Tournament. From left, Rick Kornarsky, Rich Stewart, Rocco Leone, and Larry Strassner.



Support from this year’s Ultimate Brasstacular will fund 25 veterans to go on a mission. From left, Tony Allen, Rich Stewart, Tony DiBellis, and John Burns.



The Rochester Amerks Booster Club Executive Foundation selected Honor Flight Rochester as one of their charity recipients this year. Greg Foust, VP, Volunteer Resources, HFR, accepted the check from Executive Director Patrick Lerum.

For more information about Honor Flight Rochester, check out a recent interview conducted by Tiana Stephens of CityWise Rochester, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux2NLVjP0SU.



Irondequoit Memorial Parade.

A Message from Rich

Have you considered setting up granddad or grandma on a computer or tablet?

Everyone ages differently so 90 may not be too old, if the eyesight is okay and the fingers are willing to hunt and peck a keyboard. Granddad or grandma just might be keenly interested in the thousands of online photos of their specific Mission to Washington, D.C., Honor Flight events, and even some community parades or unusual exploits, such as the first pitch thrown at the Nationals game by ‘Harmonica’ Pete DuPre.



Rich Stewart, President

For those of you who do not regularly follow HFR on Facebook and visit our Shutterfly photo Webpage, you will be pleasantly surprised in how much each continues to grow with frequent new postings. This can be of great enjoyment to our honored veterans and help stoke the afterglow of their trip of a lifetime. The respective addresses are: facebook.com/HonorFlightRochester and honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com. And of course, please continue to visit honorflightrochester.org/ for news and information, veteran and guardian applications, and to make a donation.

With this ever expanding social media, I do want to emphasize the limited scope of HFR, whose only purpose is to take veterans to Washington and provide some assistance to those who raise funds to make this happen. So, sponsorship of parades is beyond the scope of HFR and we keep the relationship at an arm’s length to avoid misunderstandings. Nonetheless, we post the photos of our alums at many different types of events on our social media. Personally, I love parades and wear my orange shirt when I attend them. We understand that it is quite common for people to cross participate in community parades and separately volunteer with HFR. This overlap can be substantial, but does not change the fact that these parades are not the responsibility of HFR.

As always our main source of funding comes from community outreach including both ground events and presentations. The greater Rochester community continues to be very generous with recent events, including: Highway Superintendents Show, AmVets Fundraisers in Victor, Man’s Field Day’s at Three Brothers Wineries in the Finger Lakes, 7th Annual Victor Week, Kiwanis Pancakes Breakfast, Rochester Amerks Booster Club Executive Foundation, Armed Forces Day Luncheon, Fairport Canal Days, Alex P. Davis Memorial Golf Tournament, American Legion Post 931, Masonic Service Bureau, Pen-Web Rotary, Jefferson Avenue School in Fairport, Greece Strawberry Festival, Bands at Barnard-Skycoasters, Frances McCabe Locust Hill Golf Tournament, Dakota Grill Motorcycle Poker Run, Geneseo Air Show, Deer Run Winery Benefit, Chili American Legion Poker Run, the 3rd Annual Ultimate Brasstacular, and the 5th annual Lake-shore Golf Tournament.

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 Media and Public Relations.