



HONOR FLIGHT®

ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER



Kisses for Heros

Have you been to a Welcome Home Ceremony and wondered where all that lipstick is coming from?? Well, Honor Flight Rochester has a special group of volunteers who call themselves "The Dolls" and they can be held responsible!

The Dolls can be seen dancing with Vets at fundraisers, mingling with the crowds and most of all, kissing your favorite Veterans at the Welcome Home Ceremonies!

We love The Dolls and you will too. Maybe you can even get a kiss!



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Welcome Home Mission 61

Mission 61 kicked off our first flight of the fall flying season. The mission had 46 veterans who served in various branches of the U.S. armed services in World War II (4), the Korean War (21), Vietnam War (4), and in the era known as the Cold War (17). Welcome Home, Heroes!



Welcome Home Mission 61



All Honor Flight Rochester Photos can be found at
<https://honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com/>

Turkey Bash

* *the* **Skycoasters** *



AND

SILENT
Disco

Friday, November 16, 2018

Riverside Convention Center

7:30 p.m. – 12 Midnight

Tickets - \$15 at the door or \$12 in advance at all Wegmans and \$12 at Eventbrite online



Wear hippie costumes
to WIN PRIZES!



Visit www.skycoasters.com
or Facebook for more details



Silent Disco 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Skycoasters 9:00 p.m.-12 Midnight



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

Bud Light, 3 court Bourbon, Vision Automotive Group, Copa Di Vino Wine, Sleep City, DeCarolis Truck Rental, Ziebart, Arlene's Costumes, Armbruster Capital Management, J. James Wolfe Insurance Agency, USA Payroll, Bath Fitter, Pride Plumbing, Wonder Windows, TV WHAM 13, Radio 95.1

Mail Bag

I also just wanted to express my feeling that Honor Flight impresses both the participants and the observers as I am sure you already know.

Sincerely and thank you,
June

This is a small donation and I don't need any acknowledgement of your receiving this. My Uncle Jim just returned from an Honor Flight on September 9th and he sure can't stop talking about how great it was.
Thanks!!!

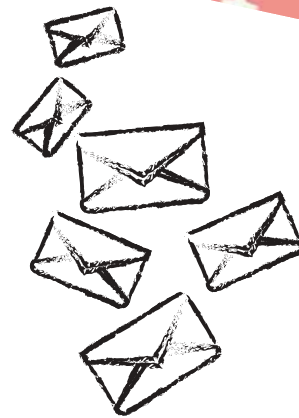
Thank you Honor Flight Rochester for a Very Memorable Trip to Washington, D.C. It was Excellent!! It is the Volunteers who make up each flight for Rochester Veterans that need to be honored. You all did a fantastic job! Bless each and every one of you for your participation. HOWEVER had to do some explaining for all the LIPSTICK on my face. Ha! Ha!
John

My husband and I have never been to a Honor Flight Homecoming. Boy have we been missing a wonderful experience! My husband Jim went on Flight 61 with our son. We knew about Honor flight but not the overwhelming support from so many people to Welcome them Home. Every minute is planned with kindness and caring for the Veterans. What great memories that will last them a lifetime.
We will be looking for any future fundraisers and spreading the work of gratitude.
Sincerely,
Jim & Donna

I would like to tell you about my 6 year old grandson who is a new Tiger Cub Scout. His Pack 166 was part of the welcoming home last Sunday for a group of Honor Flight participants. He was fortunate enough to be able to give one of the men a flag and a pin made by the scouts. He was beaming with pride to be part of this and impressed with the whole ceremony, even though at this age he does not fully understand the terrible things these veterans had to endure.

My name is Edward and I was on Mission 60. I wish to thank you for a wonderful trip. The mission was interesting, rewarding and sometimes emotional. I can't think of a better way to express my gratitude, so please accept my check as a token for my appreciation and heartfelt gratitude.

I was your guest on Flight 35. This was an outstanding experience for my Son, Guardian, and Myself. The Volunteers at Baltimore and Rochester are inspired and inspiring. Your organization skills remarkable.
As You see, I am a better procrastinator than activist, however, this week's Newsletter prompts me to attend the Welcome Home - A Friend is Part Of the Group.
Sincerely,
Dick



Veteran Memories-Mason “Mase” Fitch

Although dancing was frowned upon by the Church during the 1940s, the pastor of Asbury First Methodist Church made an exception and let young people hold square dances on Friday evenings as long as they closed the drapes. One evening, a new girl came in with a familiar group of girls. Mason Fitch, a WWII veteran, told his friend “I’d like to dance with that new girl!”, but still, he hesitated. His friend said “I’ll make it easy for you. Either you do or I’m going to.” Mason gathered up his courage and he and Rowena “Ginn” Mc Ginnis have been married for 69 years. They have two daughters, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren (including one named Mason).



In the summer of 1943, Mason was alternating between attending Mechanics Institute (now RIT) and working at Rochester Products (2-1/2 week periods at each). He voluntarily inducted into the Army Air Corps, but as the pilot/bombardier/navigator slots were all filled, he trained as a gunner at Fairmont Army Air Field in Nebraska, one of five on a crew. With the introduction of radar, only four gunners were needed, so Mason switched to be the radar operator.



Mason served in the Army Air Corps from January 1944 to December 1945. This included being a member of the 504th Bomb Group, flying 35 missions in a B-29 from the Mariana Island of Tinian to Japan. He says they flew one or at most two missions per week (each one 14-19 hours) and they rested and played a little baseball in their free time. Mason kept a detailed diary of his 35 B-29 missions, and here are two of his most memorable ones. On his third mission (February 1945), their formation of 9 B-29s suddenly realized they hadn’t allowed enough time to open the bomb bay doors and they were over Tokyo Bay for the drop. Their B-29s were redlined at 310 mph and their ground speed was well over 450 mph. Their base weather men could not explain the situation. Mason says “We now know that we discovered the jet stream in the Pacific on that mission”. (B-17s had discovered it in Europe in January 1945.)

Around midnight on their eleventh mission, the left blister gunner suddenly reported a fire in their #2 engine. Their engineer stated that the fire was caused by a “run away” propeller and the steel shaft supporting the 16-foot propeller was going to melt. The prop could then fly into engine #1, or the fuselage, or hopefully into space. He added their oil pressure was so low he had no way to “feather” or stop the prop from spinning. So everyone prepared to bail out into that pitch black night. Finally, after what seemed like an hour, the pilot put the bomber into a very steep dive, pulled it out fast, and the prop flew over the tail. Everyone calmed down and they continued on, finally landing on Iwo Jima.

Mason flew with HFR on Mission 22 along with his friend Bernie Root, with former County Executive Maggie Brooks as his guardian. His favorite stop was the Iwo Jima Memorial, since he is certain he wouldn’t be alive today if the marines hadn’t taken that island. He also loved “mail call” and wrote back to each of the students.

Mason returned to Rochester Products (GM) after attending Syracuse University where he studied forestry and engineering. He was a senior design engineer when he retired from there in 1985. Mason is keeping busy these days adding thousands of Kodak slides to their computer.



Help Wanted!

Donations Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Receive donations given/sent to Honor Flight Rochester.
- Send written acknowledgement / thank you of each donation that is documented
- Inform President and Treasurer of large donations
- Prepare bank deposit.
- Input donation information into database/spreadsheet.

Experience required:

- Requires use of personal computer and printer.
- Ability to use Word (thank you letters).
- Ability to use Excel (spreadsheet update).
- Average 2-4 hours per week.
- Reports to Treasurer.

Event Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Coordinates all aspects of a "Ground event".
- Primary/Main liaison between the "Event Hosts" and "Honor Flight Rochester".
- Arranges for for the scheduling of Volunteers through a "Survey Monkey" email.
- Trains event volunteers as required for the specific event.
- Directs the efforts of our "Veteran Volunteers" through our veteran volunteer liaison for participation in and at events.
- Arranges the preparing, pick-up and return of all informational materials and merchandise through our "Quartermaster" for each event that requires them.
- Responsible for counting and delivering donations to HFR Donations Coordinator.



Upcoming Talks and Events

- Nov 5 MVP Health Fair
- Nov 8 Parish of the Holy Family Men's Club- Speaking Engagement
- Nov 10 3 Heads Brewery Fundraiser
- Nov 11 Order of the Eastern Star
- Nov 12 Stars and Stripes Veteran 5K run
- Nov 16 Skycoasters "Turkey Bash"
- Nov 20 Canandaigua Senior Citizens Club - Speaking Engagement

Flying Schedule



Mission 64 Spring 2019
Mission 65 Spring 2019



www.honorflightrochester.org



President's Column

Dear Volunteers,

At HFR we aim to treat all missions alike. However, our organization continues to advance with each new mission offering a refined version of our preceding flights sixty-three times over.

One thing that I find quite remarkable is the frequency of fresh ideas or proverbial “Bluebirds that fly in our window” which conform with our singular purpose of transporting our veterans to their DC memorials. Our HFR story continues to develop and grow through increased participation by more volunteers and supporters.



One such new experience was with M61 the first mission of this fall. A voicemail came in from the Annapolis Area Chief Petty Officers about partnering their newly-selected Chiefs with HFR by meeting up at the WWII Memorial. This is an elite program for Petty Officers who are on track to become Chief Petty Officers. Their reason for interacting with our veterans was to help fulfill the “Heritage” portion of their training by visiting with our veterans and hearing their stories. Who could be a better fit than our Rochester heroes! And as an unexpected plus they brought with them the bugler who played taps at the Capitol for the John McCain funeral one week earlier. The clip is on our Facebook. Their CPO in charge later said, “This was truly the highlight of their summer.” Our M61 Trip Leader Rick Palmer set this up and the outcomes were a very memorable experience for all M61 travelers and official promotions for the Petty Officers. Our hope for future years is that HFR flight schedules will coincide again with the Chiefs program. Thank you Rick Palmer. Honor Flight Rochester today is as fresh and vibrant as it was at its inception ten years ago.

Further as in all my columns, I want to thank and acknowledge funding organizations for events. These were held from August throughout the fall season: Deer Run Winery Benefit Concert, Lake Shore Country Club 6th Annual Golf Tournament, Harris Beach Luncheon, Williamson American Legion Auxiliary Dinner, Penfield Pediatrics Presentation, Mickey’s Bar & Restaurant Dingle Ball (Ladder Golf) Tournament, Kodak Reds Golf Outing at Braemar, York Townhall-Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter #20, BOMA (Building Owners & Management Association) Golf Tournament at Ravenswood, Tahou Golf Tournament at Greystone, Elvis Night at Barnard Restaurant & Party House, Blossom Road Pub Fundraiser, Monroe County Order of the Eastern Star, Three Heads Brewery Fundraiser, Yellow Jacket Racing’s Stars & Stripes VeteRun 5K presented by Harris Corporation at Mendon Ponds and the Skycoasters Turkey Bash.

Thank you for all you do to keep our missions flying.

Best regards,

Rich Stewart

President

Honor Flight Rochester

honorflightrochesterHQ@gmail.com

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