



WE LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND

HONOR FLIGHT®

ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2019

IN THIS EDITION:

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

WELCOME HOME MISSION 62 PHOTOS

VETERAN MEMORIES

HFR VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

LAKEVILLE VFD BENEFIT

MAIL BAG

STATS FOR UPCOMING MISSION

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

VOLUNTEER OFF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Heather Henry who won the Col. Woody Mench Volunteer of The Year award for 2018. Heather volunteers her time with countless missions and volunteer activities. Heather is humble, hard working, and committed to making Honor Flight Rochester a smooth operation and memorable experience for everyone.

"I always say Honor Flight is the coolest thing that I do, and today I was honored with an award, the Colonel Woody Mench Volunteer of the Year, for being a part of the coolest thing I do. I am honored, and I know there are so many more volunteers who do so much for this organization, that certainly deserve this as much, if not more than I do. Thank you!! "

The Volunteer of the Year award was first given in 2011 and is given out annually. In 2015, it was renamed in honor of our late president and one of our co-founders Col. Edwin "Woody" Mench, who died in November of 2013.



WELCOME HOME MISSION 62!

On Sunday, September 30, 2019 we welcomed home the heroes of Mission 62. This mission was unique as the majority of the veterans served during the Vietnam War era. The mission had 59 veterans from the Vietnam War era and one veteran who served in the Cold War era. Although Honor Flight Rochester previously took Vietnam War-era veterans on their honor flights, this is the first time the majority of the veterans served during that conflict. The veterans served in all branches of the U.S. armed forces. Thank you to all of the Veterans and Guardians of Mission 62 for a wonderful trip!





Veteran Memories—Roger Joy

As a young man during WWII, Roger Joy was very interested in radios and electronics so he tried to enlist in the Navy but was rejected due to health reasons. Apparently, the Army had different standards and Roger joined the Army Air Corps in April of 1943.

Roger completed his basic training and flight training at various bases in Texas and then trained



as a B-24 pilot in Kansas. He was supposed to go to Europe in January of 1945 but instead he was assigned as a B-29 co-pilot on an 11-man crew in the 346th Bomb Group of the 316th Wing. They were to be assigned to Okinawa but since the base wasn't yet ready they were sent to Guam—they landed on August 6, 1945, the same day that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.



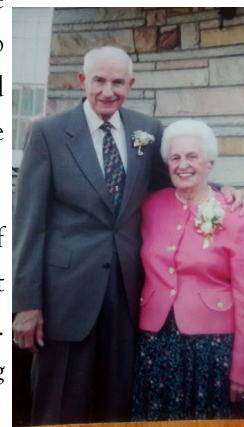
Roger and his crew flew weather reconnaissance missions from Guam and from North Field on Tinian until the base at Okinawa was ready. They were one of more than 400 planes in the air over Japan and the U.S.S. *Missouri* on V-J Day. When the crew finally made it to Okinawa, the base had been devastated by a typhoon including a 6-inch flag pole that had been bent 90 degrees. Later on, they had an “escape mission” from another typhoon. They went to Shanghai and Peiping (now Beijing) where Roger saw and walked on the Great Wall.

Roger flew HFR on Mission 32 (October 18-19, 2013) with his son Ralph as his guardian. His biggest thrill was seeing the Western/Pacific Theater section of the WWII Memorial and revisiting the various islands he had hopped.

Roger was born at home in Connellsville, PA, in the remnants of a log cabin that had been expanded but did not have running water or electricity. When he returned home in October of 1946 to attend college, most colleges had already started but Waynesburg College (now University) had delayed the start of the fall semester to accept more returning veterans.



After a year of pre-engineering work, Roger transferred to West Virginia University where he studied electrical engineering with a communications option. While working a part-time job at a radio station on weekends, he met his future wife Genevieve (Jennie) who was the pianist for a chorale group appearing on the station. They wed in September of 1950 and had been married for almost 68 years when Jennie passed in 2018. The photo at right was taken on their 50th wedding anniversary.



After graduation, Roger joined the Corning Glass Works in July of 1950 and served in various roles in engineering, management, manufacturing, and product development during his career. He retired in 1983 but returned as a consultant for several years. During retirement, Roger was very active in his church, serving on the parish council, bringing communion to the homebound, and visiting those in the hospital.

Roger and Jennie have two grown children: Ralph who lives in Pittsburgh, and Marianne who lives in Syracuse. Each has one “miracle baby” daughter and through them, Roger has a total of 5 great-grandchildren.

HFR Volunteer Appreciation

On January 26, HFR held the annual Volunteer Appreciation Night at the American Legion Greece Post 468. Almost 150 dedicated volunteers attended and fun was had by all. A million thanks to ALL our volunteers. HFR appreciates your support and efforts towards our mission in 2018!



Lakeville Volunteer Fire Department Benefit

Lakeville Volunteer Fire Department Benefit kicked off the fundraising for 2019! Bob Lonsberry was the EMCEE and Prime Time Brass provided the entertainment. There was even a pasta dinner provided by the local Boy Scouts. Enough money was raised to send 4 Veterans on missions this year! Thank you Lakeville VFD!



MAILBAG: LETTERS FROM VETERANS

My mother Fannie was honored and felt privileged to travel to Washington DC on Honor Flight #33 in April 2014 with my sister Karen. Fannie passed away in October 2018, 4 days after her 99th birthday. She became more open and willing to share what her life was like as an Army nurse during the waning year of WWII. I feel the trip and being with other World War II vets, including 3 other women, emboldened her. She was active in veterans events during her last few years of life and made many new friends among veterans of all ages here in Warren, PA. We thank you and the opportunity you gave her to finally acknowledge the importance of her service.

Cindi and Karen

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

Thank you for the wonderful experience in visiting our national monuments. I enjoyed every minute of it from our 4am start to our tumultuous reception at Rochester airport on our return. I was amazed at the planning that was behind the flight. It was a wonderful experience for my son Mike who was my guardian. The efficiency in getting us off and on the bus, in and out of our wheelchairs was remarkable. For me the two most moving monuments were the Vietnam wall and the Korean one with the larger than life platoon. I was humbled at being honored as the oldest vet on the flight. Thank you again.

Matt

I want to express my thanks to everyone for their marvelous effort arranging the Honor Flights. I was on Flight 60 in June and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

Thanks again, Gerard

Upcoming Events

Ground Events

March 2	American Red Cross Military Family Salute and Recognition Brunch
March 23-24	Rochester Home and Garden Show
April 27-28	Upper Finger Lakes Home and Lifestyle Show
May 10-19	Rochester Lilac Festival
Upcoming Talks	
March 12	Wayne Central School
April 16	Gates Historical Society
April 26	Webster Chamber of Commerce

2019 Flying Schedule



Mission 64

April 6-7

Mission 65

TBD

Mission 66

TBD

Please visit our website for information about the Upcoming Welcome Homes!

www.HonorFlightRochester.org

Honor Flight Facts

We had 6 Missions in 2018! HFR has escorted 3,045 veterans on 63 missions. Honor Flight Rochester is supported by individual donors, corporate sponsors and hundreds of volunteers.

Honor Flight Rochester is celebrating its 11th year of flying veterans from Greater Rochester on a free Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials built in their honor. Are you a vet who needs an application? Would you like to volunteer with us? Veterans and guardians can apply to fly online.

Visit honorflightrochester.org for information.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Most of our HFR family know by now that Heather Carvill-Henry is the recipient of HFR's prestigious Colonel Woody Mench Volunteer of the Year Award for 2018. Still your congratulations to Heather can be timeless.



I thought it would be helpful to provide anew some background. Recent volunteers may be unacquainted with the history. A short three years after the formation of the Rochester hub, Steve Rapp was named our first Volunteer of the Year. This was a precursor to the present Colonel Woody Mench Volunteer of the Year Award. That initial figurine was presented by Anthony DiMarzo then owner of Legacy Senior Living and patron of Honor Flight. It was a stylish glass mantel piece affectionately nicknamed "The Leggy."

After Steve Rapp's 2011 recognition, the ensuing recipients were C.P. Maloney-2012, Sally Sackett-2013, Jen Wylie-2014, Laurie & Rick Palmer-2015, Tracey Reiter-2016, Pat Mason-2017 and Heather Carvill-Henry-2018. Their exceptional volunteerism is exemplary.

In 2014 the Award was re-named to honor of our Co-founder Colonel Edwin E. "Woody" Mench who passed away the preceding year on Veterans Day weekend. Woody served as Treasurer, President and subsequently Chairman of the Board. Woody was a very accomplished individual, who felt that one of his proudest achievements was his involvement as a Co-founder of Honor Flight Rochester. During Woody's 31 year Air Force career he attained the rank of full Colonel, which included being the Niagara Falls Air Force Group Commander. Woody was a pilot completing 4500 flying hours.

Woody had a passion for the military and all veterans. He was instrumental in HFR's rapid rise in becoming a leading hub. Woody touched many of us with his kindness. He was a great family man who served others selflessly, with honor and distinction every day of his life.

In the words of our Co-Founder and current Chairman Peter Glennon:

"We know what Woody did for our organization, the veterans, and all of us. He helped our organization's taxi and takeoff be straight and smooth; and helped bring us to cruising altitude – wings level. The entire time he had on his trademark grin."

Woody was a guiding light and inspiration to all HFR volunteers. He wanted each mission to be the best possible for our veterans. Heather Carvill-Henry is an outstanding volunteer whose selection honors the memory of Colonel Woody Mench and all he stood for.

Thanks,
Rich Stewart

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.