



# HONOR FLIGHT®

## ROCHESTER NEWSLETTER



WE LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2019

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SPONSOR OF  
HONOR FLIGHT

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### Proud Sponsor of Honor Flight Rochester

On March 6th, 2019, Honor Flight Rochester's Morrey Goldman and Jerry Butterbrodt recognized proprietors of Deer Run Winery, Scott and Marie Kuyon, for the contributions they've made towards HFR's missions. The winery has hosted an annual fundraising concert for Honor Flight the past four years. The most recent benefit concert helped to send over 7 Veterans to Washington, D.C.

Murray Goldman, an Honor Flight representative who served four years in the Air Force, told the Kuyons, "You do an awesome job and the money you've raised is significant. Because of people like you, it allows people like me to make this trip."

We are very grateful to Deer Run Winery and ALL of our Donors and Sponsors. You have made a real difference in the lives of our Veterans! In the words of Morrey Goldman, "We have, number one, a mission to get all veterans to go, and number two, to pay for them. You are a big part of getting them to go."



Pictured Left to Right: Morrey Goldman, Scott Kuyon and Jerry Butterbrodt



# WELCOME HOME MISSION 63!

Mission 63, October 20-21, wrapped up our 10th Anniversary year. HFR Mission 63 consisted of 48 men and women veterans taking their honor flight trip to Washington, D.C. over the weekend. The veterans served in all branches of the U.S. armed forces during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War era, and Women Army Corps. (WAC).



# WELCOME HOME MISSION 64!

On Sunday, April 7th, we welcomed home Mission 64, the first mission of 2019! The 57 Veterans included 6 World War II veterans, 31 Korean War veterans, 15 Cold War veterans and 5 Vietnam veterans. They served in the U.S. Army (37), U.S. Navy (11), U.S. Air Force (6), U.S. Marine Corps (2) and U.S. Coast Guard (1). Thank you for your service!

## MISSION 64



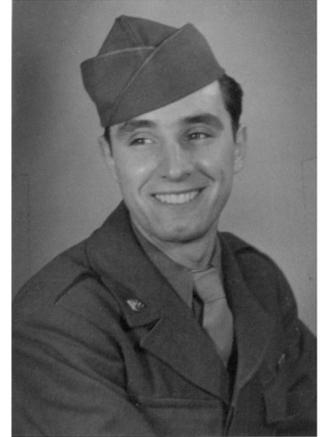
APRIL 6-7 2019

*We are excited to start our eleventh year of operations and look forward to sharing our community's thanks with more area Veterans. With ten successful years behind us, this year we have reorganized our operations to achieve more efficiencies and greater volunteer opportunities as we start a new decade of service. Mission 64 is the result of those efforts," said HFR Co-founder & Chairman of the Board Peter J. Glennon (Maj. USAF ret.).*



## Veteran Memories—Nick Verzella

Nick Verzella served in the Army from 1944-1946 as part of the 78th Infantry Division. He landed at Le Havre, spent a lot of time guarding German prisoners after V-E Day, and was part of the Occupation of Berlin. One time Nick was awakened after completing a 12am - 3am shift on a guard tower and told that the CO wanted to see him. Apparently 13 prisoners had tunneled out right under his tower. Eventually they determined that the escape had happened on the watch after Nick's, so he was off the hook. Nick traveled to Europe in 2003 to visit all of the places he had been during the war and said Berlin is so beautiful now compared to the total devastation then.



The only times Nick has not lived in his native East Rochester are when he was serving in the Army during WWII and when he attended Brockport State College. Nick became a teacher by happenstance—one day when he and a group of guys were hanging around a street corner after the war, Fred Durante, the brother of a friend, approached him and told him, "You would make a good teacher. You should think about teaching." Fred added, "I will take you out to Brockport, enroll you, and find a place for you to live." Nick hemmed and hawed but Fred persisted. Eventually Nick told him, "I'll do it, but I want to take three of my buddies, too." True to his word, Fred drove all four and got them enrolled. Of the four who went to Brockport, two became principals and one a superintendent. Nick worked in the ER school district for 39 years as an English teacher, coach (baseball and basketball), principal, and interim superintendent. Shortly before Fred's death, Nick visited him in the hospital and told him he was going to talk about him in the upcoming graduation speech he was going to give.



While his teaching and coaching career was certainly rewarding, Nick says his true calling has been ensuring that the fallen warriors from ER's Gold Star families (49 war deaths: 8 WWI, 34 WII, 5 Korea, 2 Vietnam) are not forgotten. Nick has accomplished this goal through school assemblies and Memorial and Veterans Day speeches. In each tribute, he eulogizes one veteran, after spending up to 2 months doing reading and research about him. For this work and other efforts on behalf of veterans, Nick was inducted into the NYS Veterans' Hall of Fame in June of 2011 and the gazebo in Edmund Lyon Park bears his name. He is currently working with the Village Administrator and Legion Commander to have a monument in the Station of Heroes for ER's sons and daughters, all volunteers, who have served in the military since 1975 when the draft ended.

Nick traveled with HFR on M31 in 2013 with his friend Charlie Barranco. Nick had already been to the WWII Memorial in 2006 and didn't want to "take someone's spot", but Charlie and Jean Kelly talked him into it. Debbie Hurd was his guardian and Nick says the trip "was the best thing that ever happened". He was surprised by all of the midshipmen at BWI and says it reminded him of being engulfed by the French on V-E Day.



Nick met his late wife Dorothy at Brockport and they married after his graduation in 1950 (BS and MA degrees). They have two grown children, Jeff, a physician who lives in Williamsport, PA, and Lisa, a classical musician, meteorologist, and hang glider who lives in Salt Lake City, along with three grandchildren. In addition to his talks (about 5 big ones each year), Nick keeps busy playing golf, working out at the gym, going to the theater, and reading.



# Help Wanted

## **Health and Safety Coordinator (reports to VP Mission Logistics)**

Responsible for all safety and health processes and procedures to enable a safe trip for all Veterans and others who travel and participate on an Honor Flight.

- Supports a team of qualified volunteers to gather and review veteran medical information and ensures veterans are properly characterized in terms of the health requirements
- Defines specific veteran safety requirements including oxygen for a Mission
- Ensures safety personnel are available at Departure and Welcome Home
- Reviews and maintains master veteran flight safety roster
- Provides training to Mission Safety crew members
- Defines and updates Mission Medical and Emergency processes
- Updates Guardian Training Package as needed
- Medical Credentials Required

## **Mission Safety Equipment Coordinator (reports to VP Mission Logistics)**

- Responsible for ensuring all necessary medical supplies and equipment are ready prior to each mission
- Responsible for transporting safety bags back to the Legacy after each mission and restocked

## **Events/Booths Coordinators**

- Honor Flight Rochester participates in a wide variety of events, festivals, etc. Volunteer coordinators are needed to coordinate HFR booth activities with the event host and HFR volunteers
- Coordinators plan HFR participation, be the point of contact for HFR for the event, schedule volunteers identified via surveys, provide merchandise requirements to Merchandise Quartermaster, set up tear down of booth and account monetary results

## **Newsletter Editor (reports to VP Volunteer Resources)**

- Develops 4-6 volunteer newsletters per year
- Solicit content and engage appropriate review before publishing
- Experience with design and layout tools (Microsoft Publisher, etc.) is needed and must have access to appropriate tools (for layout and photo editing)
- Must have basic photo editing skills (cropping, adjusting brightness, etc.) and basic web search skills are also needed
- Must have the ability to output newsletter to a PDF file and possess good organizational and writing skills

## **Merchandise Quartermaster (reports to Events Coordinator)**

- Responsible for defining array of HFR branded merchandise and apparel offered in exchange for donation
- Single point for purchase or re-order of all merchandise, and apparel
- Tracks and maintains inventory at storage location
- Builds kits of merchandise and supplies as requested by Event Coordinator for specified events
- Supports Events, Donations Coordinator, and Welcome Home

## **Survey Monkey Coordinator (reports to VP Volunteer Resources)**

- Responsible for staging and sending the volunteer surveys via Survey Monkey
- Provides results of surveys in an organized fashion and in a timely manner to the event leader and the event coordinator
- Resolves issues with failed deliveries and email address problems
- Provides feedback to the VRC gmail coordinators for volunteer master roster updating
- Experience with Survey Monkey desired and experience with Excel spreadsheets is a must

## **School Mail-Call Liason**

HFR encourages student involvement through schools participating in the Honor Flight Mail Call initiative. Over 40 schools take part in writing letters to our veterans who receive them when their flight departs Rochester Saturday morning. This is a wonderful tribute to our senior veterans for their sacrifice and service from students in the younger generations. Each veteran receives over a half dozen personalized letters which have been written as part of their school curriculum.

- Works with teachers and school groups in writing personalized letters to veterans on each mission.
- Schedules multiple schools for each mission and pick up and organize letters.
- Schedules presentations for schools.
- Connects experienced educators with new participants to assist with lesson strategies.

# Poet's Corner

## Grateful For The Title "American"

As the bands march by, playing Yankee Doodle, and, I hope the Battle Hymn of the Republic, do you see their ghosts in their many uniforms trudging by, and hear the rumble of artillery in the distance?

Our nation's history is like a treasure box with many priceless objects bought at great cost each reminding us what it means to be an American.

The magnificent proclamation of July 4, 1776 defiantly declares "...that all men are created equal..." and "...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..." - a declaration of "truths" that forever undermines any pretence that any person, nation or super-state is the source of our rights or has the power to abridge those rights.

The crown rejected by our first commander in chief so that he became a president rather than a monarch thereby giving us a Republic.

The deep furrows and crevices each etched and chiseled by grief on the somber face of Lincoln; father Abraham brooding over the fate of the union and his children black and white, and his sons clad in blue and gray.

Our own King, Martin, the American Moses, who saw the Promised Land but did not enter it, because of the assassin's bullet.,

The steel kitchen table on the LST used as the operating table for our wounded marines and soldiers by naval officer Dr. Wilbur Buholtz at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The stars and stripes draped over the casket of First Lt. Johnny Ragucci killed in action in Korea at his funeral Mass at St. Francis Church of Assisi Church in Auburn. New York.

The lone soldier playing "Taps" -profiled by the twilight sky mourning our fallen.

Mindful of the debt owed for the sacrifices of the past, aware of our present duty to defend our Republic, and conscious of our mutual obligation to preserve the legacy of freedom for future generations,

We are grateful for the title of being Americans.  
GOD BLESS AMERICA

Ronald Buttarazzi, Fairport NY

# Upcoming Events

## Upcoming Talks & Ground Events

- May 3-10 Victor Week Fundraiser
- May 16 Atria Penfield Speaking Engagement
- May 18 American Warrior Rock 'N Roll Bowling Party
- May 10-19 Lilac Festival
- May 19 Kiwanas Pancake Breakfast
- May 30 State of the County Address
- May 31 Our Lady of Mercy 5th Annual Volunteer Fair Speaking Engagement
- June 1-2 Fairport Canal Days
- June 8-9 American Warrior Concert
- June 11 Spencerport Federal Credit Union Speaking Engagement
- June 17 Greece Historical Society Strawberry Festival

Looking for more events?

Check out our Calendar tab on the Honor Flight home page.

<https://honorflightrochester.org/events/>

# 2019 Flying Schedule



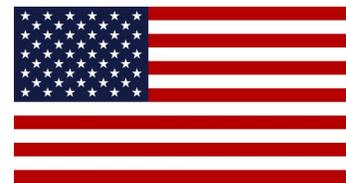
Mission 65

May 4-5

Mission 66

June 15-16

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



## Volunteer PSA

To avoid confusion, only scheduled volunteers should wear their honor flight gear to an event !



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Honor Flight Rochester's tagline is, "We Leave No Veteran Behind." Of course each veteran must be safe to travel. Still this is ambitious. Who could have guessed the significant number of veterans in their eighties and nineties submitting applications at their ages. They know that HFR's whirlwind DC trip lasts only a day and a half and they will be well tended to. This is their trip of a lifetime. They get it.



Honor Flight Rochester is in this for the long haul. Our missions fly because of the generosity of those in the nine county greater Rochester area. We are very grateful for this support. This year HFR initiated a Recognition Program for Donors, Sponsors and Benefactors. There are three thresholds:

1. Proud Donor - funds two veterans and receives an adhesive oval;
2. Proud Sponsor - funds five veterans and receives a 5" x 5" plaque; and,
3. Proud Benefactor - funds twenty veterans and receives framed certificate.

These are intended as tokens of appreciation which are suitable for display at home or place of work. Presentation photos frequently are shown on our Facebook.

Mentioned below are some events and engagements on our calendars of last winter and this spring. HFR appreciates all contributions including ground events, private sponsors, community organizations, corporations, individual donors. Please join me in thanking Garlock Sealing Technologies, Greece Performing Arts Society (GPAS), Fairport Side-B with Harmonica Pete, Carestream, Lakeville Volunteer Fire Department Event with Prime Time Brass, Frost Bite Fishing Derby, Monroe Wheelchair Goal Sponsor Program with RIT Hockey, Victor Community Chorus Concert, Rochester Home & Garden Show, Western NY Superintendents Equipment Show, Upper Finger Lakes Home & Lifestyle Show at Del Lago Casino and American Legion Riders Chili Post 1830.

Thank you to all for supporting Honor Flight Rochester.

Rich Stewart  
President & CEO

Have a question, comment, or something to share?

**DROP US A LINE!**

[VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com](mailto:VolunteerHonorFlightROC@gmail.com)

**Thank a  
Veteran!**

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