



NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 • Issue 1 • January 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Mission 69

Event Highlights

A Lost Letter

Veterans Memories

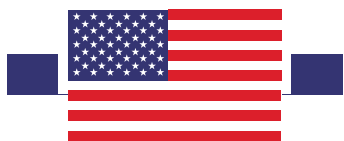
Mail Bag

President's Note

Upcoming Events

MISSION 69

OCTOBER 19 – 20, 2019



**WE LEAVE NO
VETERAN BEHIND**



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Top Row (l to r): 3H Brewing fundraiser, Harmonica Pete performance, Amerks Military Appreciation Night

Left: L3Harris Stars and Stripes VeteRun

Bottom Row (l to r): Avon Holiday Spectacular, The Skycoasters Turkey Bash



LOST LETTER FOUND: HELP HFR TRACK THIS DOWN



Your help is needed. Recently I was looking through a box full of old Honor Flight files when I came upon a small envelope with the notation, "Left (lost) 2011 Nazareth Reunion." To my surprise inside I found a soldier's letter home to his folks dated September 29, 1943 along with a few European currency notes. Back in 2011, Tom Allen, longtime friend of HFR, staged a midweek event at Nazareth College's Performing Arts Center. That was a precursor of the Brasstacular. Of course the musical program was superb with dozens of quality headline performers. The event was publicized as an "All Flight Reunion" held on the evening of November 9th. Attendance was terrific with the seats filled by four hundred orange shirted flown veterans. The preceding month Mission 20 had been Welcomed Home. That is the scant background I have beyond the accompanying letter signed with a first name. **Your help is needed. Please contact me, Rich Stewart at (585) 210-2115.**

In the 1940's letters were so important. This was decades before telecommunication satellites covered the world. Mail was a priority and served the needed purpose of taking soldiers' minds off of loneliness, boredom and the dangers of the battle front. They all had loved ones back home waiting for them. Nowadays letter writing is a lost art. Please note the self-censorship of any information which could aid the enemy if intercepted. Letters were a source of great comfort to both the sender and receiver. Reading this letter today can help all of us understand a bit more of what those who serve go through. Most importantly I need your help to return this letter to whom it belongs.

Sept. 29, 1943
Somewhere (?)

Dear Folks,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still O.K. & getting along well. I'm sorry that I haven't been able to write for some time, but it was quite impossible for reasons I can't tell you now. I can't tell you anything about where I am or what I'm doing. However I can tell you that I'm well & there's nothing to worry about. If you don't hear from me too regularly don't worry as it can't be helped. I'll be able to tell you more in the future, so until then that'll have to be enough. I haven't received any mail for awhile but expect some soon.



Don't forget to write often
+ let me know what's
going on at home. I hope
this letter finds you all
well + happy + that you
don't do too much pleasure
driving on that gallon + a half of
gas each week. I'll write
again soon, so until next
time I remain

your son
Harty



VETERAN MEMORIES: SIEGFRIED “ZIGGY” WEINTHAL

Ziggy Weinthal is lucky to have been able to leave Nazi Germany for the U.S. in 1940. His father had spent time in a concentration camp due to his Jewish heritage, but was eventually released because he had fought for Germany in WWI. Unfortunately, not all who were eligible for this exemption were released. Ziggy's family was able to emigrate to the U.S. through sponsorship by an aunt and uncle who lived in New York City. Ziggy's family joined them there for about a year before moving to Hartford. His father later opened a grocery store in Hartford and Ziggy helped him out with the store.

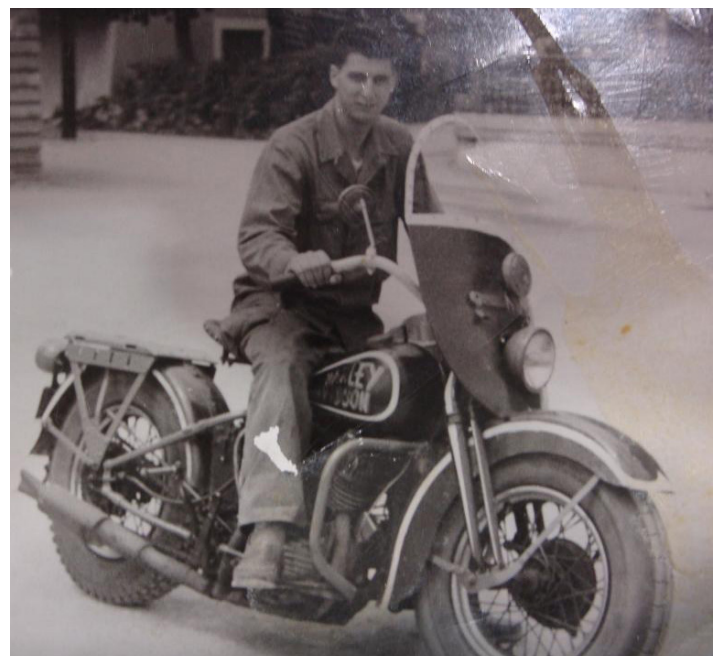
In 1946, Ziggy enlisted in the Army and served until 1950. His basic training was at Ft. Eustis, VA, followed by tech training as a railroad brakeman at Francis E. Warren Base near Cheyenne, Wyoming. He was eventually sent to Marburg, Germany for 30 days where his job was guarding U.S. prisoners in the stockade. Then he moved to Steyr, Austria and conducted border patrol with the Russians. After being hospitalized in Linz for a hernia, the chaplain discovered that Ziggy spoke fluent German and got him assigned to the Austrian Youth Activities. Ziggy lived in the school house where he served as gym instructor, and he taught the kids how to box and took them for picnics. He spent most of his evenings at the local Red Cross where he learned how to dance. After about 2 years, he was assigned to the Force Constabulary in Linz and later worked in Hörsching in a recruiting office and as an MP. While in Austria, Ziggy enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson and the friendship of his dog Rolf. Unfortunately Ziggy couldn't bring Rolf back to the U.S. when he returned for his discharge, so he gave him to the gym instructor at the school where he had worked.

After leaving the Army, Ziggy returned to Hartford and worked with his father for a time, then moved to Rochester. He enlisted in the Navy and served from 1958 to 1962 aboard the destroyer *U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts* which was based out of Newport, RI at the time. Since Ziggy had retail experience, he was assigned to run the ship's store. He recently attended a ship reunion in Baltimore.

Ziggy spent most of his work time after his military service driving 18 wheeler trucks but was usually able to be home every night. He retired a mere 5 years ago at age 85! Ziggy has two grown daughters, one in Webster and one who is a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines but is based in Hawaii. He also has two grandsons in Denver.

Ziggy traveled to DC with HFR on Mission 27 in April 2013 with

a solo guardian assigned to him. He really enjoyed seeing the various monuments in DC and reading the letters from school children. Ziggy recently traveled to New Orleans with Gary Sinise's Soaring Valor program where he was accompanied by a student named Anna from Midlakes High School. He once again received letters from school children which he greatly enjoyed.



MAIL BAG

Dear Honor Flight Rochester, Inc.,

This year I am donating my b-day money to Honor Flight in support of the local veterans. I asked my friends and family to help donate instead of getting gift. I collected \$ for the Honor Flight veterans so they can fly to Washington D.C. to visit the monuments. I hope they have a great time!

I was very fortunate to visit the Rochester airport in September to see the men and women of Honor Flight 67 return home. It was really nice to see the veterans and say thank you for their service.

Sincerely,

Henry – age 11

Hello,

My father went on one of the first Honor Flights and was very moved by the experience. Thank you for all that you do for the veterans!

Sincerely, Rosemary

Dear Honor Flight,

First of all, I want to thank the Honor Flight for having me on your #69 flight to Washington DC.

I will always remember it. I can't tell you enough how much all the ground crew was helpful.

– Frank

I hope this is one of 61 letters you'll receive from the Mission 69 honorees from this past weekend. You have changed my life forever. There is no way humanly possible to thank you and the fantastic staff for giving us the trip of a lifetime.

The "Mail Call" aboard the plane was truly reminiscent of my old military days in the Air Force. I have responded to each and every students letter I received and hope in some small way, it may change them if they have any doubts about military people. My son, Scott was my Guardian, and he played that role to its fullest and I can tell you that he is typically very quiet and reserved. He has now changed because of his experience.

Our tour and stay in Washington was pretty top notch. The motorcycle escort to the WWII Memorial was a moment to remember. Luckily, I was on Bus 1 to observe this. The bus drivers, Flight Crews and others I may have missed all deserve a Silver Star for their generous and kind demeanor with us old codgers. How do we say thanks?

The reception at the Rochester Airport was far beyond any dream imaginable and the singing of God Bless America by the group puts it over the top.

If no one else says it, let me be the first to say from all of us on Mission 69, Thank you!

Sincerely, Doug

Thank you, Honor Flight Rochester for all your good works in remembering the deeds and sacrifices of veterans who have served our nation.

Gratefully, Bill



DID YOU WATCH IT? YOU CAN ANYTIME!

The Honor Flight Heroes documentary followed two WW2 Veterans on Mission 67 and was broadcast nationally on the American Heroes channel on Veterans Day!

- Stream from AHC (if available in your cable package): <https://www.ahctv.com/tv-shows/honor-flight-heroes/full-episodes/honor-flight-heroes>
- OR view for \$2.99 at Amazon Prime video: <https://www.amazon.com/Honor-Flight-Heroes-Season-1/dp/B081B8GRPK>

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

DEAR VOLUNTEERS,

Honor Flight Rochester is special. I am a believer that you will get much more out of HFR than you put in. Whether you volunteer for a couple of hours a month or a couple of days a week, this all rolls up to make a very big difference. In January my plan is to issue a year end briefing that highlights our very successful year including:

- More Veterans Flown
- More Participation of New Flight Crew
- Formalized Recognition for Benefactors, Sponsors, and Donors
- Thriving Outreach Engagement through Events and Speakers Bureau

As always I want to publicly thank the many organizations that help fund our missions. Since our last newsletter the following have stepped up with a terrific array of events that many of us attended, including: Veterans Stand Down in Waterloo, Rochester Elks Club BBQ, Order of the Eastern Star Monroe District, Mulcher Financial Services Veterans Luncheon in Dansville, Bar Louie in Greece Ridge with JUMBOshrimp & The Coupe De'Villes, B-Side in Fairport with Harmonica Pete, Cloverleaf Square Dance Club, Yellow Jacket Stars & Stripes VeteRun 5K presented by L3Harris, Amerks Military Appreciation Night, Skycoasters Disco Party at the Memorial Art Museum, ROC Airshow Check Presentation by PEC Management, ROC the Day, 2nd Annual Avon Holiday Spectacular, DDS Companies Holiday Party, VVA Chapter #20 and the Martha Brown Middle School in Fairport.

Thank you.

Seasons Greetings to All,

Rich Stewart

President & CEO



2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7

Knuckleheads Brewery HFR Fundraiser

March 21-22

Rochester Home and Garden Show