



NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 • Issue 2 • February 2020

QUICK UPDATE ISSUE

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Elmer Brown!

The recipient of the Col. Woody Mench Award for Volunteer of the Year! Your outstanding efforts to help send our Veterans on their Honor Flight trips are very appreciated!

In Elmer's own words:

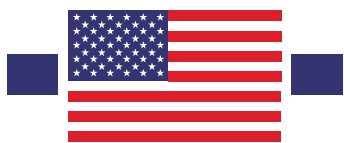
I was born in 1944 in Luton, England and in 1949 moved with my family to Rochester, N.Y., so I have a deep appreciation for our WWII veterans. After graduating from Jefferson High School in 1962 I joined the U.S. Navy and worked in the Engine Room aboard a steam powered cargo ship the USS Betelgeuse. Our ship resupplied submarine bases in Holy Loch, Scotland and Rota, Spain, and I crossed the Atlantic Ocean at least 12 or more times. After serving four years of active duty, I was discharged in 1966 as a Machinist Mate. Upon my discharge I returned to Rochester and began working for Eastman Kodak Company as a Steam Stationary Engineer in the power plant at Kodak Park for 31 years; retiring in 1997. I currently work per diem as a HVAC Operator at St Ann's Community.

In June 2009, I had the great privilege to be a Guardian for my Father-in-Law, a WWII Army Medic veteran, on Mission #3. As Vince Hope said, "A trip that will change your life", how right he was. I began volunteering with Honor Flight immediately after that trip and am proud to be able to say that I have missed only one Departure and two Welcome Homes since.



I began working with Vince to form the Volunteer Resource Team that organizes the Volunteers data base and develops new positions as the need arises. I started as the Welcome Home Coordinator and shortly after as the Departure Coordinator. For two trips in 2010, I worked both positions until we found another volunteer to fill the Welcome Home position as the organization grew. At that time, we had fewer than 100 volunteers and we have grown to over 700. Quite a change.

Receiving the Col. Woody Mench Volunteer of the year award this year was a great honor especially since Woody was an amazing mentor and friend. I have enjoyed the past 10 years working with Honor Flight and all of our wonderful volunteers, and I am looking forward to the next 10.



**WE LEAVE NO
VETERAN BEHIND**

MARCH EVENTS

- 7 Knucklehead Brewery Honor Flight Benefit
 - 14 Mary Fellows Chapter NDAR - Speaking Engagement
 - 15 Victor Community Chorus
 - 17 West Irondequoit High School Living History Event
-

APRIL EVENTS

- 10 Genesee Valley Antique Automobile Club - Speaking Engagement
 - 26 Canandaigua Rotary Festa Italiana
-

MAY EVENTS

- 15 No BS Brewery Honor Flight Benefit
- 16-17 Williamson Apple Blossom Festival
- 20 Harris Hill Elementary School - Speaking Engagement

MISSION 70 COMING SOON!

April 4-5, 2020



BOARDING PASS
Honor Flight Rochester 2020

70



**WE'RE EXCITED TO KICK OFF
THE 2020 SEASON!**

If you're interested in volunteering or know someone,
fill out and submit an application today!

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

SPREAD THE WORD!

Real ID Effective October 1, 2020

Compliance required to pass through TSA
checkpoints by all Veterans, Guardians, Flight Crew
and Gate Side volunteers.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Because of you, 2019 was a very strong year. More veterans flew. More volunteers participated. And our finances funded our business plan. Since 2008 HFR has flown 3400 veterans. Currently there are 1000 on our fly list patiently waiting their turn. Our tagline is, "We Leave No Veteran Behind."

Focus is important. We transport veterans to their memorials in DC and assist those who raise funds for us. Airport Welcome Homes have evolved into full blown community celebrations for patriots of all ages to cheer on their loved ones. This over the top support from the community includes our 810 volunteers plus 100 flown veteran volunteers.

This past year two overarching objectives for mission staffing were accomplished. First, more volunteers participated as mission staff. And second, current crew was trained up to new responsibilities. We did this by limiting each crew member to two missions per year (which could be in different roles) in combination with assigning at least two new mission staff on each flight, plus at least two crew members in new roles on each mission. This developed deeper bench strength for the long haul.

Statistically, 79 different volunteers filled 108 mission crew slots for an impressive 40% increase from prior years. In 2020 we will continue with these staffing objectives plus an additional safety goal to provide more trained "Callers." This will spread the workload in contacting veterans with a process where Safety volunteers who actively assist calling veterans will receive higher priority for mission placement.

Also, please join me in congratulating volunteers shown below with their assignments since last summer. They are listed on our website leadership page along with four dozen functional areas comprising our organization.

School Liaison/Mail Call

Toni Stevens-Oliver

Welcome Home Volunteer Coordinator

Jill Cordts

Merchandise Quartermaster

Sally Mustaca

Safety Coordinators

#1 Jen Everett

#2 Bob Wesley

Travel Planner

Michelle Payne

Data Systems Support

George O'Gara

Volunteer Orientation

#1 Karen Zilora

#2 Kevin Prinzing

Donations/Mail Coordinator

Tammy Roberts

Community Celebration Liaisons

Marsha Lempert

Cindy Baker

Survey Monkey

Colleen Shallenberger

Mission Operations Director

Eric Young

Nametags/Printing

Lynette Cox

Newsletter Editor

Jill Yanus





Thank you to Dave Timmons and his team including Karen Zilora & Joel Elias for making great strides with the Rackspace webmail, website management, more extensive use of Dropbox as well as our new four-fold brochure. Thank you to Frank Vavruck and his team for

overseeing our finances. Thank you to Jerry Butterbrodt for 47 Events staffed by 200 volunteers. Thank you to Steve Wendell for the Speakers Bureau conducting 40 Talks by 66 volunteers. Thank you to Morrey Goldman for the Proud Sponsor plaque presentations. Thank you to the Laura Johnson and Carole Ann Lee for the Safety Advisory Council who provided sage wisdom, guidance and oversight.

Very special thank yous to Frank Vavruck and Dave Timmons for stepping in mid-year to cover critical responsibilities for mission logistics and operations.

HFR always strives for very high quality programs that distinguish our hub from others:

- On our very first Mission October 2008, Clarise Morse, wife of founder Earl Morse traveled with our crew.
- In the summer 2009 Tom Allen organized our first concert in the Legacy Clover Blossom courtyard with Prime Time Brass.
- Our first Newsletter was published August 2011.
- Our Mission 14 Video received the prestigious Telly Award. This DVD is still in use today.
- In 2011 our Volunteer of Year Recognition Program began and subsequently was renamed in 2014 in the memory of Colonel Woody Mench. Our 2019 recipient is Elmer Brown.

- Facebook – To date there are 5,158 “Likes,” www.facebook.com/HonorFlightRochester
- Shutterfly was initiated 2013 with thousands of photos catalogued; www.honorflightrochester.shutterfly.com
- In 2016 our Photo Mission Album was first published with M49.
- In 2016 our Emissary Program began with well-known advocates Don Alhart & Marion Mench traveling on M50.
- In 2018 Recognition Programs for Donors, Sponsors and Benefactors began.
 - 2019 Benefactors Level (20+ veterans) - Lake Shore CC Golf Tournament, Victor Week for HF, Mastercraft Decorators, Ultimate Brasstacular, Monroe Wheelchair, Southwest Airlines, and Legacy Clover Blossom Senior Living Community
 - 2019 Sponsors Level (5+ veterans) - listing two dozen
 - 2019 Donor Level (2+ veterans) – tallying in the hundreds
- M68 our Keynote Speaker was Staff Sergeant David G. Bellavia Medal of Honor Recipient, US Army.
- In 2019 the National TV Premiere of Honor Flight Heroes Docu-Series featured M67 WWII Veterans Harold & Curley.

In summary 2019 was another best year ever because of our volunteers who came through with more veterans flown, more volunteer participation, excellence in support programs and generous funding from the greater Rochester community.

Thank you,

Rich Stewart
President/CEO

WE NEED YOU!

Do you have articles you're interested in submitting for the Honor Flight Newsletter?

Requirements:

- Publish-ready articles, in Word or PDF
- Max of 600 words if including images
- Images need to be JPG or PNG and submitted as separate attachments
- Articles can be submitted the beginning of each month, newsletters are

NOTE: All articles will be reviewed before being approved for publishing. Please submit articles and topic ideas to Jill Yanus at jillanayanus@gmail.com.