



# NEWSLETTER

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## WORLD WAR II VETERAN HAROLD “BUD” LONG

NEVER VOLUNTEER. That’s an old military adage, and if WW2 veteran and then-B26 aviation mechanic Harold “Bud” Long had stuck by it, he’d not have found himself storming Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day on his birthday. But apparently Bud wasn’t much of one to follow norms.

At 100 years old, Bud Long is as sharp as a tack. He still plays golf, and before COVID regularly met the arriving Honor Flight Rochester vets returning from their visit to the memorials in Washington, D.C. He still gets frustrated eighty years later when he reflects on his pre-deployment work on P-40 aircraft at Curtiss-Wright, when profits were padded on “Cost Plus” contracts by adding unnecessary laborers to jobs. And Bud can recite, like it was yesterday, many of the shenanigans he pulled during the Second World War.

Like many guys, Bud relied upon his defense job to avoid the draft. But by September 1942 most of his friends had been drafted, and he grew weary of having the pending deferral hanging over his head, so Bud accepted his draft, joining the Army Air Corps. Trained as an aviation mechanic, Bud’s training took him from one derelict base to another - Tampa, Gulfport, Maryland, resulting in his position as a crew chief and deployment to England

aboard the Queen Mary (with 18,000 of his best friends) in December 1943.

Now, it is a very good question how a bomber crew chief came to be storming Omaha Beach. In fact, it’s a great question! And the truth is that Bud Long’s superior asked for a few volunteers to accompany the engineers over to the mainland to build some airstrips as soon as the beaches were cleared on D-Day. And with volunteering, aircraft crew chief Long found himself swimming ashore to Omaha Beach, which was not cleared of Germans, and not ready for any sort of air strip construction! In fact, Bud Long never did help build or service any airfield, instead becoming a combat soldier.

Some of Bud’s stories are hard to believe, even with the photo and publication evidence. As a soldier, Bud Long fought his way across Europe - France, Germany, and the Battle of the Bulge. Oddly enough though, Bud didn’t walk Europe - he drove it. Having found a German 4WD truck just five miles inshore of Omaha Beach, Bud and his buddies repainted the truck and added a star, and that was their mode of transportation



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through Europe for eighteen months. Do note the photo of Bud with his truck and mascot. You'll also note the top hat Bud picked up - and was told to take off by General Patton himself!

Volunteering again following VE Day almost didn't work out well for Bud Long, when he chose to drive a truck back to Marseilles. His buddies who had not volunteered, instead having taken the train, were delayed as Bud boarded a troop transport bound for the fight against Japan. As it seems that Mr. Long is the luckiest man on the planet, VJ Day redirected the ship to New York. Thus, Bud Long was one of the first GIs to return home!

Bud's return home was a disappointment. There was no band, not confetti, not even his parents to greet him. "A nobody. Just another number", he says. It took sixty-six years to truly honor Bud's contribution to the nation, finally realized when Honor Flight Rochester flew Bud ("Flight 18, September 2011" he says) to visit the memorials at Washington D.C. When asked what he thought about Honor Flight Rochester as an organization, Harold "Bud" Long shifts into promotions mode: "Donate! Every dollar you give goes for flights! That Honor Flight Rochester, you can't beat it!"

It's easy, in hindsight, to enjoy Bud Long's escapades. But it was war, a very real war, and he was in the thick of it. From everyone at Honor Flight Rochester- donors, sponsors, and volunteers - we thank you Mr. Long for your effort to bring peace to Europe and America. And, please, if you volunteer again, we assure you that Honor Flight Rochester is both safe and noble.

## REAL ID UPDATE

On April 27<sup>th</sup> the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that DHS is extending the Real ID enforcement date by 19 months, from October 1, 2021 to May 3, 2023, due to circumstances resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



# MISSION OPERATIONS ADVANCES AUTOMATION

Eric Young, Mission Operations Director

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Eric Young and I serve Honor Flight Rochester as Mission Operations Director. I have worked with HFR since the very beginning, when Vince Hope was organizing Mission #1. My connection to HFR came through my work at AirTran Airways and continues as a Station Leader for Southwest Airlines here in Rochester. I have worked with many dedicated and caring volunteers and have had the privilege of seeing off more than 3,000 honored veterans and their guardians on HFR's 69 missions.

While the current pandemic has placed a hold on our missions, HFR has used this "downtime" to look at our current processes and find opportunities for improvement.

### VETERAN REGISTRATION PROCESS

One process we looked at was our veteran registration process: what happens from the point that we receive an initial application from a veteran to booking that veteran on their Honor Flight.

The pandemic has placed a significant hold on veterans being able to take their Honor Flight. We have missed one full flying season and are on hold in the current season, but remain "Mission Ready" for when we are able to fly again. Our "old process" asked a lot of medical information on the initial application; only for us to ask again when it was time for the veteran to fly. Many veterans would comment about why we kept asking the same questions over and over again. The big reason is that things change. Medical information can become outdated over the course of a number of years. With our "new process," we won't ask for significant amounts of medical information up front. Instead, we will wait to ask for that information when it is time to book a veteran for their Honor Flight - so we remove redundancy and have the most current medical information available to our team.

As a result of our review, we have a new veteran registration process flow that has updated the veteran application, created a veteran registration form, and changed the guardian application into a registration form. These forms have been updated and are available on our website.

We are thankful to our team for working diligently through this process: Eric Young (Mission Operations Director), Tracey Reiter (Veteran Calling Coordinator), Elaine Fahselt (Registrar), Jennifer Everett (Safety Coordinator), Laura Johnson (Safety Advisory Council) and Carol Ann Lee (Safety Advisory Council).

### ELECTRONIC BUS BOOK

Another exciting enhancement for our mission leadership is an electronic bus book. This automates mission critical information for the Flight Crew with a very up-to-date manifest containing Key Contacts, Bus Lists, Veteran & Guardian Info, Room Assignments, Service Notes, Boarding Lists, Roll Call Sheets, Hotel Check-in Sheets, SWA Passenger List, etc. This transpired since September 2020 when HFR entered into a partnership with RIT for a senior development project. This is a class under the guidance of Professor Richard Keller. Seven teams of students listened to our needs and requirements and began the process of developing a solution. We had additional meetings in November 2020 as the teams mapped out their initial ideas and listened to our feedback. In April, we met with the students as six of the teams pitched to us their final solutions. We provided feedback and narrowed it down to three teams who gave us final presentations before we made our decision. The Honor Flight Rochester team of Karen Zilora (IT Database/Systems Administrator), Eric Young (Mission Operations Director) and Jennifer Everett (Safety Coordinator) were pleased to award the final solution to Team Ruby (Zachary Easley, Mark Thurott, Marcus Risch, Justin Arcoraci, Edward Riley, and Campbell Schweickhardt). We are grateful for the work of these RIT students and very excited about rolling it out on our next mission. The electronic bus book will make a real difference. Thank you to all who made this winning solution happen.

## EVENTS

Full compliance with all pandemic mandates and directives is required. Only events marked with \*\* will have volunteer staffing needs. The Survey Monkey process will be used in a timely manner for those requiring HFR participation.

- June 17** Webster Police 1000 Club Golf Tournament at Webster Golf Club
- July 12\*\*** BOMA Golf Tournament at Ravenswood Golf Club
- August 6** Lake Shore Country Club Ninth Annual Tournament for HFR
- August 14\*\*** Avon Cornfest
- Sept 18/19\*\*** Purple Painted Lady Festival (More details forthcoming)

# ROCHESTER CORVETTE CLUB RECOGNIZED AS PROUD BENEFACTOR

The Rochester Corvette Club made a very generous donation that will fund the travel of 30 Honor Flight Rochester Veterans to their memorials in Washington, D.C. The Club has over 500 members. Carmela Gallinat Past President and current Charity Coordinator of the Club presented the check and was happy to say:

“This is the largest donation the Club has ever made, and there have been many as the Club is 62 years in existence ... This \$15,000 is for the good it can do for Veterans and the missions to come after the pandemic.”

Carmela was assisted by avid Club Members Ron Cocchiara and Tom Rodriguez as they accepted the Proud Benefactor plaque from HFR President/ CEO Rich Stewart and Co-Founder/ Director Jeff Gould.

Honor Flight Rochester is grateful to the Rochester Corvette Club. They make a big difference. HFR is eager to take to the skies again when the pandemic subsides and it is safe for our Veterans, Guardians and Volunteers. Thank you Rochester Corvette Club!



## STAFFING

These following opportunities are available. Most are re-postings from pre-pandemic that were postponed and selection process stopped. For those of you who previously applied through Survey Monkey back then please reapply when these new Survey Monkeys are released as reactivation moves forward.

### **Events Coordinator (Attends Monthly FAM Meeting)**

The purpose of Events is to support local fundraisers where Honor Flight Rochester, Inc. is the benefactor. Typical events are: Golf Tournaments, Concerts, Air Shows, Plays, Trade Shows, Fairs and Social Gatherings. The Events Coordinator is the fundraising point person for the entire Honor Flight Rochester organization. This person will work with local organizations to plan and schedule events, recruit event leaders, keep track of and communicate events schedules and work diligently to continue our enviable record of fundraising activities.

### **Registration Calling Committee Leader (“RCC” New Position)**

As part of the new veteran mission registration process, HFR has created the RCC to contact veterans who have not yet returned their registration forms. We are seeking a HFR volunteer to be the RCC Leader and HFR volunteers to staff the calling team. All of the effort can be done from home.

### **Travel Planner (Attends Monthly FAM Meeting)**

All activities involving travel arrangements/reservations for Honor Flight Missions and other required business travel. Single point of contact with airlines (Southwest), hotel (BWI Hilton), and Bus (Eyre), Arlington National Cemetery, and the Navy Yard and Museum. Required output are contracts and other agreements/arrangements/invitations to support planned Honor Flight Rochester mission dates.



Rotary District 7120 is exploring the opportunity of forming a Rotary Club for veterans in the Finger Lakes area to support veterans and veteran causes. All veterans and non-veterans alike are welcome to participate in providing service to those who served for us. Rotary District 7120 encompasses the 11 counties between Lake Ontario and the Pennsylvania border in the Finger Lakes area. Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem solvers, who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

**The object of this club is based on three premises:**

**Our Camaraderie, Our Service, Peace.**

### **OUR CAMARADERIE**

We care for one another. It's like saying "I got your back" without using words. The "brotherhood & sisterhood" in this sense includes extended family, spouse, children, and parents. For those newly separated from service or

those who have served years ago, we walk alongside them. Respect for one another regardless of faith, gender, race, origin, preference, etc.) is an entry level value that is imprinted on every service member. These characteristics do not divide us, they make us stronger.

### **OUR SERVICE**

The sense of service derives from military core values of Service Before Self that parallels those of Rotary International Service Above Self.

Service includes:

- Actively caring for one another and our extended families – especially during times of hurt;
- Serving in our communities – especially youth, civic organizations, schools, and the elderly.
- Duly honoring other veterans & their families – especially during time of grief.

### **PEACE**

Every veteran took an oath to serve their country – to give their lives if necessary, with hope that their service would bring peace. That desire for peace survives their service commitment. Being peacemakers calls us to proactively strive for peace.

If interested in becoming a Charter Member, please contact: PDG John E. Hall at [rotaryvets7120@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryvets7120@gmail.com).

### **Photography Coordinator**

Oversees the following staff

- Mission Photo Book Editor
- Shutterfly Upload Coordinator
- Photographer pool

### **Shutterfly Upload Coordinator**

Includes site maintenance

### **Mission Photo Book Editor**

Includes working with printer to ensure quality results

### **Photographers for Events**

Includes events, send offs, welcome home celebration

### **Newsletter Reporters/Writers**



Eric Young  
Mission Operations Director

# PRESIDENT'S NOTE

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Thank you volunteers for your gift of service. Time is valuable to each of us. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the time and talent you have given over the years and, as needed during the pandemic. Yes, most gatherings went virtual and our flight schedule was canceled. Still a number of volunteers have stayed busy behind the scenes to fulfill our "Mission Ready" promise. Kudos for adjusting nimbly to mandated requirements and all you do. I am confident that blue skies will return; however, it is unknown if HFR will fly this fall. Our overriding concern is the safety of our Veterans, Guardians and Volunteers. Nonetheless HFR is "Mission Ready."

In this issue the lead article is our Veteran Salute to Harold "Bud" Long of Mission 18. It is replete with his anecdotes from WWII, several are lighthearted. In fact, Bud had so many war stories that recent recognitions were skipped over, such as, in 2019 when French President Macron signed an order appointing him to the grade of Chevalier (Knight) in the French Legion of Honor. Congratulations to Bud Long on this special tribute!

Also for your interest are these timely articles on: 1) Mission Operations advances automation, 2) Rotary Club proposes formation of veteran focused Club, 3) HFR Proud Benefactor recognition for the Rochester Corvette Club, and 4) Staffing opportunities.

Further I am pleased to let you know that since our last mission Reverend George McKnight has been named to the new position of Chaplain. Vietnam Veteran Reverend McKnight was on Mission 69 and offered to say grace at the Saturday Night Heroes Banquet. From his initial overture arose the opportunity for a nondenominational chaplain. Reverend McKnight will be at Send-Offs and available for outreach. His contact info is: [rev.geomcknight@frontiernet.net](mailto:rev.geomcknight@frontiernet.net) or (585) 225-0264.

Once again, thank you volunteers.

**Rich Stewart**  
*President & CEO*

