



Your Safety is Paramount

NEWSLETTER

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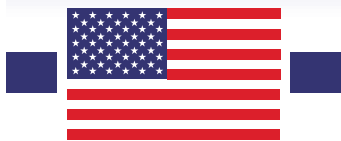
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**WE LEAVE NO
VETERAN BEHIND**

VETERAN SALUTE TONY PALERMO

BY CHARLES DeROLLER

Rochester native and Cold War veteran Tony Palermo enlisted in the US Army despite having an exception from the draft. In doing so, Tony anticipated being sent to Korea, but certainly he had no idea that his government career would place him as a player in the most notorious spy prosecution in US history.

Following basic training, Tony was trained in counterintelligence. But instead of being sent to serve in Korea, as most at that time were, Tony was stationed in the middle of Cold War-Munich, Germany. In 1952, Munich was the center of western intelligence, with over 500 agencies in operation. Tony doesn't discuss exactly what he did, though he does share that he travelled throughout Europe and spoke fluent German. In the evenings, Tony completed his law degree.

Following the end of his enlistment, Tony continued to serve the US intelligence community, finally landing a job as a prosecutor for the Justice Department. In this capacity, Tony focused on those who violated the Trading with the Enemy Act.

1957 brought Tony what would be his brush with fame, a story of intrigue, politics, and spies: a story later brought to the cinema with Steven Spielberg's 2015 drama *Bridge of Spies*, starring Tom Hanks. No, Tom Hanks did not play Tony Palermo (he should have).

The whole story starts with young Tony being assigned to prosecute US-based KGB agent Rudolf Abel, who had been captured following spying on critical US defense activities for a decade. Tony and his team spent exhaustive hours compiling a concrete case against Abel, who was convicted of spying and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Yet, Tony's fame wasn't yet over, as his prosecution of spy Rudolf Abel was about to collide with one of the most publicized events of the Cold War: the 1960 downing of the CIA's U-2 reconnaissance aircraft piloted



by Francis Gary Powers, deep over Russian territory. Between the Abel case and the capture of Powers, US-Russian relations were at an all-time low, with the threat of armed conflict being a serious concern. In 1962, spy Rudolf Abel, incarcerated in the US thanks in part to Tony Palermo, was traded for Russian captive pilot Powers. And thus, 53 years later, the work of Tony and his colleagues came to public interest with Bridge of Spies.

Following his government contributions, Tony did what most veterans do - return to Rochester, raise a family, and focus on their career. For Tony, his career was with law firm Woods Oviatt Gilman. And, like many service veterans, Tony joined Honor Flight Rochester's visit to Washington D.C. with Mission 71.

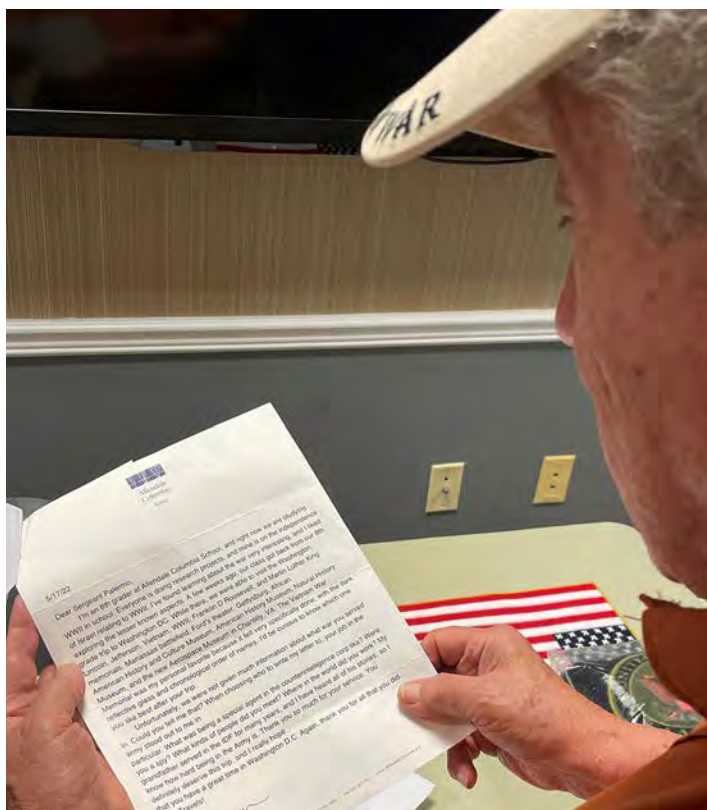
Tony wasn't planning to be on HFR Mission 71; his brother, was supposed to go. But Tony's brother was unable to join HFR, so Tony went, dedicating the trip to his brother, a WWII Navy destroyer escort veteran.

Tony's trip on Mission 71 had an impact on him far beyond his expectations. "You can't understand the feeling to visit the memorials," says a reflective Tony. HFR Mission volunteers, says Tony, urged the veterans to "let it go" and share experiences with each other. There is no critique, no recording, but instead a group of honored veterans with a chance to open up to those who understand. The experience moved Tony beyond belief. From the surprise Mail Call on the flight ("the joy I received!"), through the astonishing motorcade escort from Baltimore ("uplifting") and visit to the memorials and Arlington ("This is why we are free!"), Honor Flight Rochester exceeded and excelled on every detail and experience. This though, was eclipsed by the Welcome Home reception upon return to Rochester, for which Tony solemnly reflects that "this was the first welcome home for many of us. Finally."

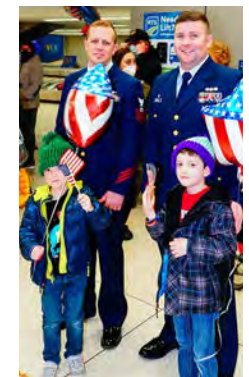
Tony was so moved by HFR Mission 71 that he's become one of the organization's strongest advocates. Not only is Tony a financial supporter of HFR, but he's made multiple appearances to share his experiences with other veterans. As of today, it seems that Tony is in high demand for speaking engagements, even at age 93.

About Honor Flight Rochester's missions, Tony sums it up: "You come back thanking God that you're American."

We thank you Tony, for your service to America and Honor Flight Rochester.



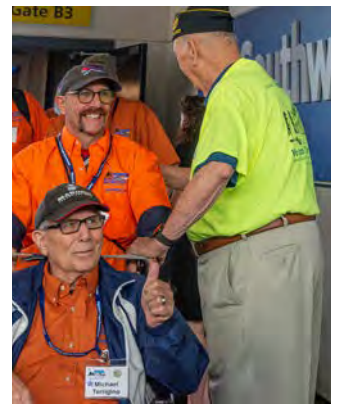
MISSION 70 • APRIL 2 – 3, 2022



MISSION 71 • MAY 21 – 22, 2022

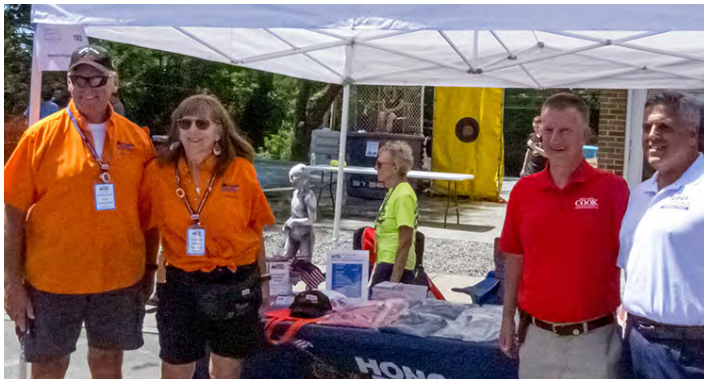


MISSION 72 • JUNE 18 – 19, 2022



WE LOVE WHAT WE DO!

AVON CORN FESTIVAL



ELKS LODGE FESTIVAL



GENESEO AIR SHOW



WATKINS GLEN



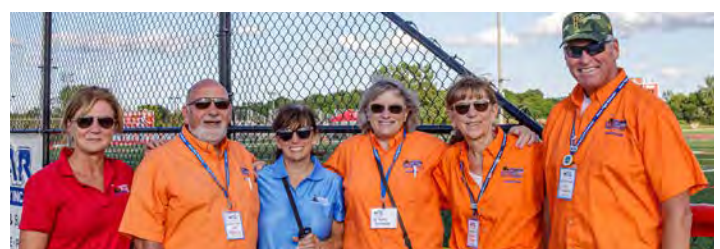
NAKED DOVE BREWERY FUNDRAISER



SHOOTOUT FOR SOLDIERS

This year HFR was named a new charity partner of the Canandaigua chapter of Shootout for Soldiers. Shootout for Soldiers is a national organization that uses lacrosse to educate the community about the challenges veterans face when they return home, as well as assist nonprofits in fundraising for their projects and operations.

The weekend was very successful and included a visit by Jack Foy. A very special thanks to Mary Gavigan and all HFR volunteers that made this event a success!



MAIL BAG

“I had no sooner arrived in my classroom when the phone rang; Mr. Vincent DiSchino was calling to thank me for Mail Call and asked to speak to the student in my room who wrote to him. He shared with me how when the "Mail Call" shout went up he became very emotional, thinking back to how much Mail Call meant to him “back in the day.” He choked up on the phone, telling me about his service during Vietnam.

At 10:30 this morning Mr. Thomas Lynch knocked on my classroom door (his son-in-law is also a teacher in my building) and came in to thank the student who wrote him and to talk to my entire class about his trip. He loved every minute and was very emotional as he shared. He first came home to the Rochester Airport all those years ago to no one - his family didn't even know he was coming. He was overwhelmed and moved by his welcome home Sunday.

He even taught the students to salute!

I love being a part of this fantastic organization and so appreciate all that everyone does for our Veterans.”

Toni Stevens-Oliver

Honor Flight Rochester School Liaison



HFR VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CORNER

HFR would like to recognize Chris Reddy for his time and dedication to HFR as a volunteer. As a member of the HFR Photography Team, Chris culls and edits all photos from HFR Missions, as well as all educational and fundraising events. We owe Chris a debt of gratitude for helping to preserve these priceless HFR memories.

Thank you, Chris!

EVENTS & SPEAKING

September 10-11	Mission 73
September 17-18	Purple Painted Lady Annual Art Festival
October 7	Winslow Elementary School: School Letters Presentation
October 29	Elvis Night
November 11	Skycoasters “Turkey Bash”

WELCOME OUR TEAM MEMBERS!

MEET: ALICIA STOKLOSA NEWSLETTER EDITOR

"In 2013 I learned about Honor Flight through my maternal grandfather, when he went on his own mission through Honor Flight Chicago. He was similar to a lot of the Greatest Generation – quiet, a bit curmudgeonly at times, and humble about his Army service in WWII. To him, it was simple – his country had needed him, he answered the call, and that was that. After a bit of poking and prodding, he left with my uncle on his Honor Flight open minded, but not knowing what to expect. He enjoyed the trip immensely and was overwhelmed and brought to tears by our family waiting for him at the end of the parade.

He had come home from WWII quite matter-of-factly, and the genuine outpouring of love and respect that awaited the veterans at their Welcome Home at O'Hare took his breath away. I have fond memories of coaxing stories out of my grandpa from his time in the service and how he maintained his budding courtship with my future grandmother, though they had met only weeks before on a blind date before he shipped out. In a story that reads more like a romance novel than real life, he proposed to my grandmother via letter, and being so hopeful that she would say yes, he shipped her engagement ring overseas all the way to Iowa.

When I moved to Rochester in July of 2021 and heard that Rochester had its own HF hub, I began volunteering at the Backpacks and Guardian Meeting events, and recently took on the role of Newsletter Editor. Joining the HFR team was important to me, as I had seen the care and organization that went into my own family member's mission. It felt the perfect fit to help keep alive the stories of our veterans and ensure that they are remembered and honored the way they deserve. Perhaps my favorite memory so far of HFR has been volunteering at the 2022 Fairport Memorial Day Parade and seeing my own partner, an Army Captain, interact with and assist veterans riding in convertibles in the parade. Watching these men, separated by generations but with so much in common, trade stories and chat over classic cars, drove home why I volunteer with HFR. I'll never truly be able to understand the sacrifices and experiences of our service members, but I'm happy to do my part as a member of the HFR team to commemorate their service, remember their stories, and say thank you."



MEET: MORREY GOLDMAN PURCHASING COORDINATOR



Morrey Goldman, a proud volunteer, is appointed to the newly created position of Purchasing Coordinator. Morrey is a US Air Force Veteran, having served from 1961-1965, and a retired railroad signal engineer. Morrey flew on Mission 58 and was so impressed with his Mission that he wanted to be part of bringing the "Trip of a Lifetime" to other veterans. He will attend monthly FAM meetings and continue in his current roles as the Senior Veteran Liaison, part of the Speakers Bureau, and all-around cheerleader for HFR. Please join us in congratulating Morrey and welcoming him to his added responsibilities.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Volunteers:

I hope your summer has been as enjoyable as mine. It is passing too quickly.

The resumption of flights this spring was highly successful with three missions flown totaling 161 more veterans. This raised our total count to 3,540 veterans over 72 missions. Since 2008, HFR has averaged 49 veterans per flight. This spring the three-month average was 54. However, our current plan called for about 60. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make this happen. Still, there is more to do with 100% seating efficiency as the goal. Our volunteers are the best. Thank you!

In the last newsletter I presented to you the concept of Functional Areas. Organizationally that list covers most everything through four dozen positions staffed by sixty volunteers. It can be found from our website masthead placed appropriately under the interactive label of Leadership. Here are the recent changes:

Departures – Elmer Brown, Lisa Larkins, Nicole Brown
Newsletter Editor – Alicia Stoklosa
Newsletter Graphic Design – Jill Yanus
Newsletter Veteran Salute Writer – Chuck DeRoller
Registrar – Mary Ellen Brooks
Veterans Mailings – Donna Prader, Steve Wendell & Randy Prader

For the complete listing of Functional Areas please go to HonorFlightRochester.org and look for Leadership near the top of each page. This is a working reference and will be updated semiannually.

Also, on Mission 72 I would like to mention the test run of the Flags of Our Heroes program. Other Honor Flight hubs do this. In Rochester we asked Chaplain Reverend George McKnight to carry a memorial flag as a posthumous tribute for WWII Veteran Henry Charles Butterbrodt to the revered sites. At the Closing Ceremony Reverend McKnight returned the flag to his family. This is highly symbolic for all veterans who left us before experiencing their Honor Flights. The flag is provided by the family and the costs of travel are covered by donations to the Jeff Gould Memorial Fund. In fact, we are following in the footsteps of Co-founder Jeff Gould who carried his father's memorial flag on a very early mission. Jeff is survived by Kim Gould (also Co-founder) who very much supports this program.

Currently, all the details for Flags of Our Heroes program are under consideration including the recommendation that Rochester Fly List veterans who passed away while awaiting their turns receive priority. This is a work in progress.

See you in September and thanks for all you do,

Rich Stewart
President & CEO

