



NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 • Issue 2 • May 2023

VETERAN SALUTE: FRANCIS "JIM" CARRICK

BY CHARLES DeROLLER

Honor Flight Rochester's Mission 74 wasn't the first flight for Avon's Francis "Jim" Carrick, who flew both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft in Saigon in 1966 and 1967. As a crew chief, Jim was responsible for maintenance, operating the door gun, and routinely flying VIPs including General Westmoreland.

Though young Jim had quite an impressive résumé of flights, it was still Vietnam, and memories Jim would rather leave behind. When asked if he had any photos of himself in Vietnam, Jim responded in the negative; his wife Carol Jeanne pulled out an entire scrapbook. Ironically, after Jim rotated stateside to Fort Irwin he was bored, so requested a return to Vietnam. Wisely, his colonel said NO.

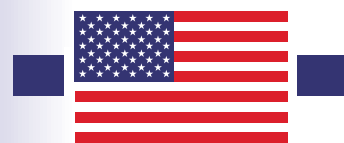
Now in his late 70s, Jim Carrick still doesn't sit much. After a career at Rochester Telephone, Jim retired in 2006, and three days later began his post-retirement career as a school bus driver, where he's beloved by the sports teams. Jim is so adored that he won the Rochester Rocs 2018 Best School Bus Driver award. It's clear that Jim is a do-er, not a talker. Still, his wife Carol Jeanne reports, "He wrote me every day from Vietnam. Every day."



IN THIS ISSUE

Veteran Salute Francis "Jim" Carrick
Milo the Bat Dog Press Release
Event Recap
Read ID Update

Honor Flight Rochester
Functional Directory
Mission 77 Welcome
Home Parade
President's Note



**WE LEAVE NO
VETERAN BEHIND**

Like many Vietnam veterans, Jim has been to the memorial in Washington, D.C., “There’s a couple of guys from Avon on that wall.” Avon is one of those small towns where everyone knows everyone else, where everyone pitches in, where neighbors are like family. So it’s no surprise that Jim’s students love him, nor that prior to Honor Flight Mission 74 road signs bid him well on his journey, or that many kids wrote him letters to accompany him.

Jim’s journey on HFR Mission 74 began when son Scott submitted Jim’s application. Scott also served as Jim’s guardian on the trip. As a bonus, Jim and Scott were joined by Jim’s daughter-in-law and her father Scott Hillebrant, also a Vietnam veteran.

Jim Carrick marveled about the volunteers on Mission 74: “We were so well treated. And the HFR volunteers were incredibly well organized and timed.” Jim was unaware that the Rochester chapter of Honor Flight is the only one east of the Mississippi River to stay overnight: “I was tired after the day!” he says, and it gave him a chance to be with fellow veterans, who “have memories of the same things.”

At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, Jim was ecstatic “They were impressive, they got me right into the first row!” The return to Rochester, specifically the overwhelming show of support from so many in the community, Jim felt was “Unbelievable. I couldn’t believe the crowd. And there were people there from Avon to welcome us.”

Overall, Jim describes his trip with Honor Flight Rochester Mission 74 openly and heartfelt: “It was the greatest thing in the world. Almost worth being in Vietnam.”



MILO THE BAT DOG

Original Press Release:

<https://www.milb.com/rochester/ballpark/milo>

Rochester Red Wings Bat Dog, Milo, has announced his **Milo Making A Difference** campaign! Milo and the Red Wings have set a goal of raising \$10,000 for two local organizations - Honor Flight of Rochester and the Veterans Outreach Center – during the 2023 season.

“Milo and I are thrilled to be back out on the field for yet another year fetching bats and making a difference in the community with the help of the Flower City Group. This year we are donating all of the proceeds to Honor Flight and Veterans Outreach Center. Being a veteran myself, it hits home being able to support these two phenomenal veteran nonprofit organizations.” - Josh Snyder, Milo’s Dad

“Honor Flight Rochester is a place where many friendships have been struck among our volunteers and with members of surrounding communities. Expanding our circle is important to how we fund veterans on future missions to Washington, DC. I am so pleased to welcome our new “Best Friend” Milo the Bat Dog whose fundraising efforts are greatly appreciated.” - Rich Stewart, President, Honor Flight Rochester

“It’s incredible to work with such great community partners like the Rochester Red Wings and the Flower City Group,” Veterans Outreach Center Executive Director and U.S. Army Veteran Laura Stradley said. “Every day, Veterans Outreach Center engages with brave men and women from all branches of military service who have made tremendous sacrifices for our country. We are very grateful to have this kind of support from the Red Wings and the community to help us provide critical, life-changing services for veterans, completely free of charge. We appreciate all of the players

and staff so much for their investment in our mission and their desire to join VOC in Serving Those Who Serve U.S.” - U.S. Army Veteran Laura Stradley, Executive Director, Veterans Outreach Center

As part of the initiative, the Red Wings have partnered with Flower City Group who will be donating \$50 for every bat retrieved by Milo during the season.

“Flower City Group has been a proud supporter of the Rochester Red Wings for over 50 years. This year, we are delighted to once again sponsor Milo the Bat Dog and to support the Veterans Outreach Center and Honor Flight Rochester. Flower City Group is honored to partner with the Red Wings to support these two organizations which provide such critical services to veterans in our community.” - Steve Schuld, President, Flower City Group

The Flower City Group will also be sponsoring Milo Baseball Card giveaways on April 28, May 13, June 16, August 10, September 16 and a Milo Wings Wednesday, tshirt giveaway on July 19.

“We are incredibly proud to once again partner with the Flower City Group to support our local veteran community through the ‘Milo Making A Difference’ campaign. It’s inspiring to see the impact that Milo has made over the years, and we look forward to continuing that in 2023. Our fans have shown time and time again that they are dedicated to supporting causes that matter, and we have no doubt that they will once again rally around this important initiative.” - Dan Mason, General Manager, Rochester Red Wings

Fans can support the campaign by participating in one of two Meet-And-Pets scheduled for May 13 and August 25. A \$10 donation will allow fans to meet Milo and get a photo with The Goodest Boy after he is done working. Meet-and-Pet passes can be purchased the night of the game (they will not be sold in advance).

Finally, a portion of the proceeds from all Milo merchandise sold this season will be donated as well.

In 2019, Milo helped raise \$3,500 for the Wounded Veterans Foundation and in 2021 \$2,336 was donated to T.A.P.S (Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors) through Milo merchandise. In 2022 Milo helped raise \$13,696 for the Bivona Child Advocacy Center and the Society for the Protection and Care of Children (SPCC).



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ROCHESTER RED WINGS HOME OPENER



ROCHESTER HOME AND GARDEN SHOW



REAL ID UPDATE

The Secretary of Homeland Security announced that DHS extended the Real ID enforcement date to May 7, 2025, due to lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic..

REAL ID



HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER

FUNCTIONAL AREA DIRECTORY

The FAM Directory can also be found on our website under the Leadership heading at HonorFlightRochester.org.

Board Of Directors

Peter Glennon: Chairman, Co-Founder & Legal Counsel
Rich Stewart: President & CEO
Frank Vavrck: Treasurer

Functional Area Management

Events Coordinator: Mary Gavigan
Mission Operations Director: Eric Young **
Mission Staffing Director: Bruce Philpott
Purchasing Coordinator: Morrey Goldman
Safety Coordinator: Jen Everett
Secretary: Dave Timmons**
Travel Planner: Tracy Williams
Treasurer: Frank Vavrck **
President & CEO: Rich Stewart **
Volunteer Resource Committee Coordinator:
Randy Prader

Functional Areas (Alphabetical by Title)

Accounts Payables: Marianne Peckham
Advance Team/Mission Supplies and Lunch:
Bob Henry
Backpacks: Jean Kelly
Chaplain: Reverend George McKnight
Data Systems Support: George O’Gara
Departures: Elmer Brown, Lisa Larkins, Nicole Brown
Donations/Mail Coordinator: Tammy Roberts
Events Coordinator: Mary Gavigan
Facebook Administrator: Heather Henry
Flags of Our Heroes Admin: TBD
IT Database & System Coordinator: Karen Zilora
Living History: Cindy Rickett
Mission Operations Director: Eric Young **
Mission Staffing Director: Bruce Philpott
Mission Safety Equipment: Steve Reiter
Newsletter Editor: Alicia Stoklosa
Newsletter Distribution: Lee Begy
Newsletter Graphic Design: Jill Yanus
Newsletter Veteran Salute Writer: Chuck DeRoller
Name Tag Coordinator: Amy Lissow
Photography Coordinator: Frances McCabe
Photo Mission Books: Chris Reddy
President & CEO: Rich Stewart **
Purchasing Coordinator: Morrey Goldman

Quartermaster Merchandise: Sally Mustaca

Registrar: Mary Ellen Brooks

Safety Coordinator: Jen Everett

Safety Coordinator Back-up: Bob Wesley

School Liaison/Mail Call: Toni Stevens-Oliver

School Mail Call Pickup Driver: Morrey Goldman

Secretary: Dave Timmons **

Speakers Bureau Coordinator: Steve Wendell

Survey Monkey: Colleen Shallenberger

Travel Planner: Tracy Williams

Treasurer: Frank Vavrck **

Volunteer Resource Committee Coordinator:

Randy Prader

Volunteer Resources Committee/Vol G Mail Account:

Elmer Brown, Randy Prader, Marie Wraight

VRC Committee Support: Elmer Brown

Volunteer Events Leader: Jean Kelly, Mary Beauchamp

Volunteer Orientation: Karen Zilora, Kevin Prinzing

Veteran Mailings:

Donna Prader, Steve Wendell, Randy Prader

Veteran Visits Book Program: Oksana Robinson

Veteran Visits/Book Delivery Members:

Steve Mumby, Tom Lee

Veteran Volunteer Liaison, Morrey Goldman

Veteran Calling Coordinator, Tracey Reiter

Veteran Safety Advisory Council:

Jen Everett, Laura Johnson, Carole Ann Lee

Welcome Home Community Celebration Liaison:

Cindy Baker

Welcome Home Coordinator: Pat Mason

Welcome Home Veteran Not Flying Coordinator:

Mary Beauchamp

Welcome Home Celebration Support for Dignitaries:

Marsha Lempert

Welcome Home Celebration Support Assistants:

Lee Begy, Heather Henry, Laura Habza, Tom McCarthy,
Janice Perri

Welcome Home Merchandise:

Sally Mustaca, Marianne Peckham

Wheelchairs: John Zink

** Denotes Officer

AUXILIARY SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

HF Dolls: Amy Mooney

JOIN US AT OUR M77 WELCOME HOME PARADE MAY 14, 2023

Everyone is welcome to attend our WH Parade but must follow mask requirements and stay a safe distance from those who traveled and the HFR volunteers. Admittance to the actual Welcome Home Ceremony in the International Room will be by invitation only due to capacity limitations.

All volunteers who are “inside the stanchions” must comply with our Covid protocols, which are: (1) they must provide proof of vaccination, (2) sign a waiver release, (3) answer covid related questions the day of welcome home, and (4) comply with all mask requirements. This includes crowd control, merchandise, arrival gate dignitaries, musicians, color guard, HF Dolls, etc. All volunteers will be required to check in before taking up their post.

These are the same protocols the Veterans, the Veterans' invited guests, Guardians and Flight Crew must also follow. No one will be allowed to enter the controlled areas without having gone through the check in process and complied with the protocols.



ACCESS TO HFR MISSION & EVENT PHOTOS

Rochester Honor Flight Photo Webpage

To view Mission photos and photos from HFR events, navigate to the HFR homepage and click on the camera icon.

From there, you can view and download photos.



Sign up for our Newsletter

If you are not on the HFR Newsletter distribution list and would like to be, please send an email to: HFRnewsletter@gmail.com and let us know your email address. We will put you on our mailing list to receive our newsletter. You can also find the newsletter on the Rochester Honor Flight News page <https://honorflightrochester.org/news/>.

Honor Flight Facebook Page

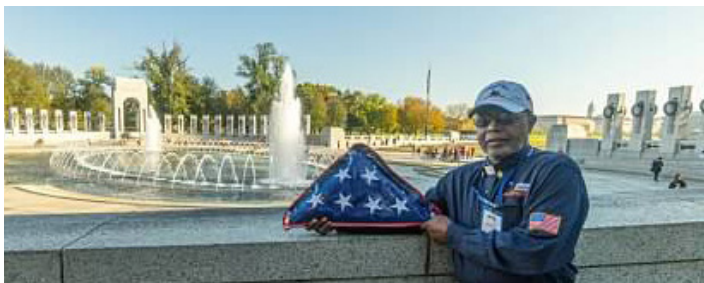
Please also join us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/HonorFlightRochester>. You can view current posts on the HFR Facebook page.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Volunteers:

The start of the flying season is always an exciting time. I am so ready.

Additionally for 2023 we are moving ahead with the Flags of Our Heroes program which was successfully test piloted last year, albeit with a limited number of participants. We learned a lot, made some adjustments and now will offer this as a standard program. Similar to before, on the last mission of the year (M81), Hub Chaplain Reverend George McKnight will carry one symbolic memorial flag with a special honored list of deceased veterans to all the memorials visited. Different and new this year is an application process submitted by a family member of their deceased veteran who died before taking their Honor Flight. The Deceased Veteran Application is now available via the "Contact Us" page of our website. My thought is that only a family member has the standing to submit an application if they so wish. Otherwise the deceased should rest in peace.



Flags of Our Heroes (FOOH) Program

is an initiative of the Honor Flight Network, conceived by a Vietnam Veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart the late Dave Bauer. The Rochester version of the program began in 2022.

Too many of our Honored Veterans passed away before they had the opportunity to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Although, they will never see their memorials, we want to provide those families with opportunity to know their beloved one was shown our highest regard.



The Honor Flight Rochester hub invites families to submit by email an FOOH application for their deceased Veteran. For support documentation, we encourage the inclusion of a copy of a photo from the era preferably in uniform and an obit. The application is mandatory; however, there is flexibility with support materials. Perhaps an old letter with a faraway APO address could be sufficient.

Upon acceptance, your Veteran's name will be reviewed for entry on the special list carried to Washington by our Hub Chaplain Reverend George McKnight; folded for privacy. This is a solemn, devout sign of respect for the deceased who we feel is spiritually represented.

On the appointed Welcome Home Sunday (Mission 81 in October) at the airport there will be an "invitation only" private gathering for the families of the Flags of Our Heroes honorees. The plan is for this to be held in a conference room prior to the procession of returning flown veterans marching by. Each family will receive a Certificate of Gratitude.

Thank you for all you do & see you soon,

Rich Stewart
President & CEO