

# HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER



## NEWSLETTER

A Trip of a Lifetime

Volume 15 • Issue 1 • Spring 2025

## 2024 OPERATION STATS



### 6 Missions Completed

Mission 82: April 20-21

Mission 85: September 14-15

Mission 83: May 25-26

Mission 86: October 5-6

Mission 84: June 15-16

Mission 87: October 26-27

**87 Total Missions Flown Since 2008**



### 346 Veterans Flown

**4,413 Veterans Flown Since 2008**

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 22-23 | Rochester Home & Garden Show                         |
| 30    | Woody Mench Volunteer Appreciation Recognition Event |

### MAY

- |    |                                    |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 17 | Frank Montondo Apple Blossom Shoot |
|----|------------------------------------|

### JUNE

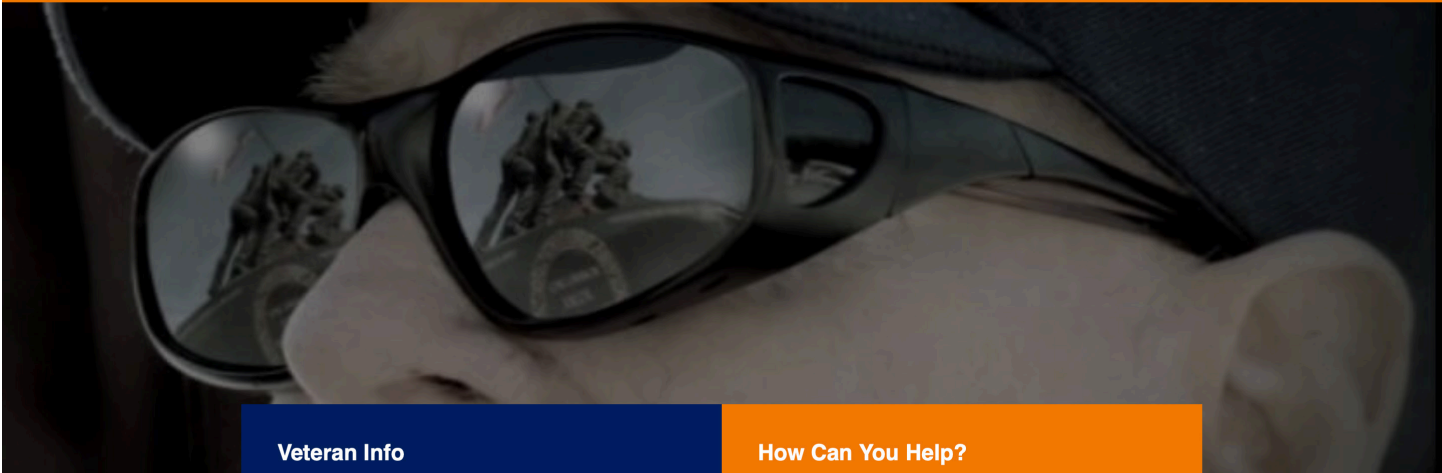
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|-----|---|
| 7-8 | Fairport Canal Days                     |
| 16  | Greece Strawberry Festival              |
| 21  | Gentile Open/Salmon Creek (Spencerport) |

### PLANNING AHEAD

- |             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| July 13-14  | Geneseo Air Show             |
| July 26     | Shootout for Soldiers        |
| Sept. 20-21 | Purple Painted Lady Festival |

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**Veteran Info**

[Apply to Fly: Application for Veterans →](#)

**How Can You Help?**

[Volunteer Sign Up →](#)

# Check Out Our New Website!

— *Written by Karen Zilora*

About 2 years ago, HFR President Rich Stewart called me to discuss something he wanted to add to our website ([www.HonorFlightRochester.org](http://www.HonorFlightRochester.org)). Not having my computer nearby, I brought up the website on my phone, only to be astonished at how poorly it rendered. When I thought more about that, it made complete sense since the website was about 12 years old by then.

As an IT/Database Coordinator at the time, I recommended that we undertake a complete website redesign to achieve a more modern look and compatibility across various device types (e.g., phones and iPads), and after making a presentation to the board and getting some rough estimates, the project was approved and I put a team together. Our first step was to look at websites for many other HF hubs and non-profit organizations. Then we evaluated various design options, decided on the website pages and content, and put a specification together for going out to local website developers for bids.

I am very happy to report that our new website was moved into production on 1/14. Besides the responsive design that adjusts to a user's device, the new website features many photos; updated forms for veteran, guardian, and volunteer applications; a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page; and an updated Contact page. Our new Missions page shows information about upcoming and past missions—look there a few days before any mission for details on the upcoming Welcome Home. The header on each website page has quick links to access our Social Media sites (Facebook and Instagram) and our Shutterfly albums which contain mission and event photos.

Thanks to my great team (Fon Sakulsurat, Shelly Sulenski, Jill Yanus) for their hard work, significant contributions, and dedication to this project. Thanks also to the board for supporting this project.

Please send all of your veteran friends to the new site so they can sign up for their Honor Flights!

**Welcome Home Mission 87 Veteran**



**Mission Details**

**DEPARTURE:** October 28 at 6:10 AM, ROC Airport  
**WELCOME HOME:** Sunday, October 27, 2024

**Upcoming Event**

**Naples VFW American Legion Music Festival**  
 2 pm  
 March 15, 2025  
 781 State Rte 21  
 Naples, NY 14122 United States  
[Learn More](#)

**Upcoming Missions**

**Mission 88 (58 vets)** May 3-4  
**Mission 89 (82 vets)** May 31-1

**Past Missions**

**Mission 87 (55 vets)** October 28-27



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Honor Flight Rochester. Our "Trips of a Lifetime" for local veterans would not be possible without our 100% volunteer staff!

Honor Flight Rochester has many different volunteer opportunities including:

- Helping with Mission Departures or Welcome Home ceremonies
- Serving as a photographer for Departures, Welcome Homes, or Special Events
- Working at special events (e.g., at our booth at an air show, assisting with a golf tournament fundraiser, etc.)
- Coordinating efforts of volunteers for a special event
- Assisting with our Veterans Letters program
- Assisting with our Veterans Luggage program
- Assisting with our Veterans Mail program
- Working on manual tasks that can be done from home
- Supporting by trucking supplies as part of our Operations Bureau (you must have been as a guardian or as part of a mission crew)

If you want to join us as a volunteer, apply online by clicking the [Online Volunteer Application](#) button. If that's not possible, click on the [Mail-in Volunteer Application](#) button to download and print, mail or email after completing.

**Interested in Volunteering? Apply Now!**

**Apply Online:**  
 Apply online by completing our Volunteer Application Form.

[Online Volunteer Application](#)

**Apply by Mail:**  
 Apply by mail by downloading and completing the application below. Print a copy and mail it to our office at:  
 Honor Flight Rochester, Inc.  
 ATTN: REGISTRAR  
 PO Box 94  
 Iron, NY 14144

[Mail-in Volunteer Application](#)



# Be Your Real ID Self

The Real ID Act, passed in 2005, establishes and ensures that minimum security standards are in place and enforced for state-issued ID-type cards. Because of this Act, effective May 7, 2025, all adult airline passengers 18 and older must show a Real ID at airport checkpoints in order to fly. This includes all Honor Flight Rochester veterans, guardians, and mission staff.

**What is a Real ID?** DMV-issued driver license, learner permit, or non-driver ID that's federally compliant. It allows you to fly domestically and enter certain federal buildings. An enhanced photo document does not replace the Real ID.

## Valid Forms of ID

- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License
- U.S. passport or U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card
- An acceptable photo ID issued by a federally recognized Tribal Nation/Indian Tribe
- Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETCs).
- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport
- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
- Transportation worker identification credential
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

The Transportation Security Administration: [www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification](http://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification)

**Does your NYS ID or driver's license have a star or flag on it?** If yes, you DO have a Real ID. If not, you'll need to apply and receive a Real ID in order to fly before May 7, 2025.

**Does a passport still work if you don't have a Real ID by May?** Yes, a valid US passport will work in place of a Real ID.

**Is there an additional cost?** No, there is no additional fee for a Real ID and all standard transaction fees apply at the DMV.



## View Event Photos

**View and download our mission and event photos on Shutterfly!** Click on the picture icon, in the top right of our website header, and you'll be taken to our photo gallery links. Click on the event or mission you want to view and you'll be taken to Shutterfly. You can view or download our photos all on Shutterfly.



If you want to download or view any full-size images, you'll need to create a Shutterfly account, or use your Apple, Facebook, Google, or Amazon account to log in. If you already have a Shutterfly account, you can simply log in.

Shutterfly

### Create an account

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/>     | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/>     |                      |
| <input type="password"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Password must be at least 8 characters.

Or continue with:

By signing up, you agree to Shutterfly's [Terms and Privacy Policy](#). New users will receive offers and promotions by email and mail.



SIGN UP

ALREADY A MEMBER?



# President's Note



**Rich Stewart, President & CEO**

## Dear Volunteers,

By now many of you know that I am stepping back from my responsibilities as President & CEO effective June 30th. I will continue my involvement with the Flags of Our Heroes program and as a Board member.

For all of us, embracing change is an opportunity where as old doors close, new ones open. For me, I am already increasing my time with my only grandson, who is two years old. Yes, he looks like and acts like me, age adjusted for energy level. For you, I can only encourage you to be alert to opportunities that will inevitably arise.

I have great confidence in the future of Honor Flight Rochester. Our story is a glowing success among the many charities in greater Rochester. This is because of you. Thank you! I have never felt alone at Honor Flight. It has been my absolute honor and privilege to be at helm for eleven years. And still, I look forward to continuing my sixteen-year association with our remarkable organization, however in a much reduced capacity.

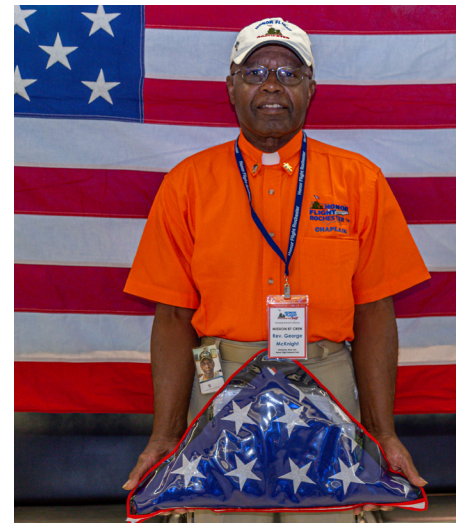
The search process will consider both internal and external candidates. There is no single heir apparent. I anticipate many excellent prospects will come forward and the transition will be smooth.

The future is bright, and the strength of our organization cannot be understated. You, our volunteers, made HFR a thriving organization that is far from staid and static. I believe that the best is yet to come. As volunteers, you are the spirit of HFR.

I owe each of you my complete respect and gratitude for your contributions that I cannot ever repay.

All the best,

*Rich Stewart*  
*President & CEO*  
*Coordinator Flags of Our Heroes Program*



*Rev. George McKnight with the Flags of Our Heroes memorial flag from Mission 87*

## Honor Flight Social Media

Are you following us on social? You can view some of our newest posts without an account!

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HonorFlightRochester](http://www.facebook.com/HonorFlightRochester)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/honorflightrochester/](http://www.instagram.com/honorflightrochester/)

