



A JOURNEY OF COMPASSION: Introducing HFR President Kim Gould

Meet Kim Gould, the new President of HFR, originally from the suburb of Erie, PA. Kim's professional path started with a certificate in machine operation and blueprint reading from Erie County Technical School, leading to roles as a machine operator and inspector before she moved into sales. It was through sales that she met her late husband, Jeff, a factory rep from Rochester whom she had known for seven years.

Jeff's perceptive nature shone through when he noticed Kim's struggles during a divorce and suggested racquetball. That initial outing not only brought them together but also introduced Kim to Jeff's three children, who she has embraced as 'her kids' ever since, a family now expanded by two grandchildren. After nearly two years of long-distance weekends, Kim and Jeff married in July 2001. Sadly, Jeff passed away a month after their 20th wedding anniversary.

In Rochester, as her sales customers faced economic hardship, Jeff encouraged Kim to pursue her true calling: working with special needs animals. She committed to earning her veterinary technician degree, studying full-time while also working full-time. Kim now works at Macedon Veterinarian Care as a Licensed Veterinary Technician. She has two dogs and 2 cats, 3 of which have special needs, including a cat serendipitously named Jeff. She actively engages in outdoor sports like running, paddleboarding, and biking, finding them crucial for stress relief, especially after her loss.



A lifelong believer in "paying it forward," Kim, alongside Jeff, played a crucial role in establishing HFR's Rochester hub. Their shared dedication to HFR volunteering brought them immense satisfaction, with Kim recalling their emotional experiences at "Welcome Home" events.

Following the announcement of Rich Stewart's retirement, Kim was encouraged by several calls and texts from individuals suggesting she apply for the President position. She expressed being "overwhelmed with gratitude for all of the well-wishes" she has received.

Welcome and congratulations, Kim!

IN THIS ISSUE

HFR President -
Kim Gould

Mission 88, 89, 90

Awards

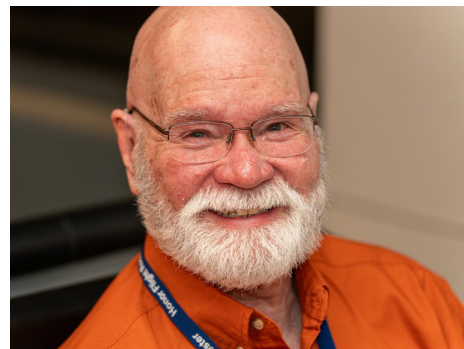
Upcoming Events

COVID Policy

Mail Bag

President's Note

Mission 88



Mission 89



Mission 90



View Event Photos

View all of our mission and event photos! Go to <https://honorflightrochester.org/missions-2/> and click on the "View Mission Photos" button to see more!

Awards



Frederick Douglass Airport Director Andrew Moore accepts Proud Benefactor Recognition Plaque for the Staff, Management & Teams of the Greater Rochester International Airport presented by HFR's Then-President Rich Stewart and Vice President Eric Young. This relationship began in 2008 and is crucial to the success of Honor Flight Rochester. The future is very bright with our 100th Mission scheduled for 2027. Thank you to all at the airport.



Proprietor Laurie Read of Woodland Silkscreen & Embroidery accepts Proud Sponsor Plaque from Honor Flight Rochester Quartermaster Sally Mustaca. Laurie is an important vendor who provides high quality product and great service. Thank you to Laurie for all she does.



Greg Foust of Honor Flight Rochester presents a Proud Benefactor plaque to Eric J Roberts and Andrea Reeves. Eric and Andrea produced the "Honor Flight Heroes" documentary that followed Honor Flight Rochester's Mission 67 featuring WW2 Veterans "Curly" Voystock and Harold Stryker. Initially shown on Veterans' Day 2019, it has been shown many times over the years and is available on social media. We thank Eric and Andrea for continuing to bring national attention to Honor Flight Rochester!

HFR Policy for COVID & Other Respiratory Viruses

Recently some volunteers inquired about our COVID policy regarding working at a Welcome Home. Here is our policy which was developed by the Health and Safety Committee (as of 09/10/2024) in accordance with the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Testing Positive for COVID:

If an individual (Veteran, Guardian, Mission Crew, or Volunteer) tests positive, they will not be permitted to travel or volunteer at Honor Flight Rochester events for 10 days from the date of the positive test.

COVID Exposure:

If an individual (Veteran, Guardian, Mission Crew, or Volunteer) has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID and are symptom free for 5 or more days, they will be permitted to travel on their scheduled

mission or participate in Honor Flight Rochester events. Masks are recommended for another 5 days to minimize the risks of further exposures at all Honor Flight Rochester events.

COVID Symptoms Start While on a Mission:

If at any point during a mission a Veteran, Guardian or Honor Flight Rochester Crew member starts exhibiting respiratory virus-related symptoms, they will be encouraged to wear a face mask. Masks are stocked in the Safety and Bus Bags.

Note: Honor Flight Rochester will have face masks and hand sanitizer available upon request.

The County Key

Upcoming Events



Honor Flight Rochester Then-President Rich Stewart Receives Key to Monroe County from County Executive Adam Bello at Mission 89 Welcome Home Celebration.

JULY

- 26 Rochester Red Wings with Bruce the Bat Dog • Rochester
- 26 Shootout for Soldiers • Canandaigua

AUGUST

- 8 Brewfest • Gates
- 9 Avon Corn Festival • Avon
- 23 Red Wings with Bruce the Bat Dog • Rochester

SEPTEMBER

- 6 9/11 Tribute Ride & Concert • Rochester
- 11 BOMA • Walworth
- 13 Victor Climb Aboard • Victor
- 20-21 Purple Painted Lady Festival • Palmyra
- 27 Empire Jeep Ride • Charlotte Beach
- 28 The Mary Wee Pub • Webster

NOVEMBER

- 11 Veteran's Day Fleet Feet Race • Rochester
- 14 Skycoasters "Turkey Bash" • Rochester
- 16 Elvis Night • Greece

Mail Bag

I was fortunate to be part of the latest Honor Flight, Mission 89. It was an incredible experience that I was able to share with my son Pete as guardian. I know it also involved a tremendous amount of effort from a very dedicated group of volunteers, and we want to thank all of you for this opportunity and for creating so many cherished memories, right through the Welcome Home. I would like to specifically acknowledge the efforts of Morrey who started me on this journey. He is very carrying and supportive for not only me, but for my wife Jane and our son as well. Thank you, Morrey.

— M89 Veteran Robert

My husband David recently completed Mission 88! He and our grandson Nicholas had an amazing and memorable experience. It was an experience they will never forget! When my husband returned from Vietnam, he was spit on at the Rochester Airport. Needless to say, the warm welcome he received this time made him forget that day. He cried all through the parade this time! Thank you for all you do for our veterans!

— M88 spouse Mary Ellen

Thank you for a wonderful weekend with Mission 88! It was an honor to accompany Veteran Ed on his journey and it was an added bonus to work with you and the crew of Bus #1. The level of professionalism and care everyone showed throughout the weekend was incredible. I am so impressed with the logistics and flow of both trips I've been on. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it as a Team Leader. I look forward to working with you and Honor Flight in the future.

— M88 Guardian Amanda

President's Note



Kim Gould, President

Dear Volunteers,

I am filled with immense gratitude and excitement as we embark on this next chapter together.

First, I want to say to all the veteran volunteers, "Thank You" for your service and the sacrifices you made.

Let me take you back to how it all started. My husband Jeff and I were among the co-founders of HFR. There was a small article in the Democrat & Chronicle asking for volunteers interested in starting a hub in Rochester. For us it was a way for us to honor our fathers, both WWII veterans. Through one of Jeff's business contacts, a foundation called The Dutch Summer's Foundation generously donated \$6,000 at the last moment which allowed us to fly 10 veterans and their guardians. We were also so very thankful to Channel 8 for sending Anchor Megan Backus and Cameraman Jay Gardner to fly with us to promote this mission. It truly was the generosity of the Rochester Community and surrounding areas that allowed future missions. We are not government funded, but all our support comes from donations. After we returned home, one of our veterans, Dick Bedford, spoke to the students at St. Rita's. The students immediately wanted to contribute, and started selling pencils and paper bricks

to raise money to send a veteran. This is one wonderful, concrete example of community support. Through the years so many partners have joined the forces for our veterans. The Legacy was instrumental; they hosted an event on Veterans Day that year and also provided a place for our meetings, which is where I first met Rich Stewart. Numotion (formerly Monroe Wheelchairs) has been a great supporter: they transport wheelchairs to and from the airport for each mission, and store, repair, and if necessary, replace them. Through the years, it is the support of our community and volunteers that has made HFR the wonderful organization it is today.

I had the profound honor to fly Mission 89 to escort 61 veterans to see their memorials. Southwest Airlines provided a truly special tribute for our veterans: 'Freedom One.' This incredible aircraft features a unique paint design of the American flag, making the journey even more memorable. With the close of M89, we have now flown 4,535 for their 'Trip of a Lifetime'. During the Welcome Home ceremony, Keith Farrel, President of the Monroe County Airport Fire Fighters Association, presented Rich Stewart with a check for \$4,000. They also provide each returning mission with a spectacular water cannon salute. Many, many thanks for all they do for HFR!

And as we look to the future, I want to offer a very special thank you to Rich Stewart. Rich, your years of hard work, unwavering dedication, and exceptional leadership have been absolutely instrumental to Honor Flight Rochester.

Kim Gould
President

