

# HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

## Highlights of the General Meeting - January 10, 2018

**SPRING FLIGHTS:** The dates are set -- April 14, probably out of Fort Lauderdale; and June 2, probably out of Miami. Chairman Rick Asper is finalizing plans with the intent of having both charters fly to Reagan National, just a short drive to the monuments on the National Mall and Arlington National Cemetery. He hopes to announce the fall dates soon, with a flight of Elite Guardian Vietnam veterans likely again.

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AND GALA:** Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 23. Fundraising chairman Stan Bostic said that the City of Pembroke Pines is planning a full day of events to honor the military in addition to hosting our Military Gala at the Charles F. Dodge City Center (see attached photo). Stan said he is counting on a full corps of volunteers and would be forming committees in early February. "We need to boost our treasury," Stan said. He asked everyone to help with ideas and let him know if they have any connections for publicity or entertainment.

He said he was committed to recruiting "Tier 1" entertainment in the beautiful theater that Jim Naskrent compared to the Broward Center.

**VERY IMPORTANT --** All our Honor Flight volunteers will get a chance to preview the gala facility. Our next meeting -- Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 p.m. -- will be at the City Center, 601 SW City Center Blvd., Pembroke Pines. "It's a chance to excite the volunteer base to the large amount of money that can be raised in one day," Jim said. "Everyone can see the elegance of the building." City commissioners are planning to join us at the meeting.

**VIRTUAL HONOR FLIGHT:** The next Virtual Flight is scheduled for Thursday, February 8 at South Plantation High School. This will be our third "Virtual" at South Plantation and fifth overall. If you know a veteran who will never be able to go on the flight to Washington, D.C., please invite them. There are seats available. Vietnam veterans are eligible also. As Jay Wein said, the students take over and do most of the work. The veterans receive a simulated Honor Flight experience without having to get on the plane. They will arrive between 3:30-4:15 p.m., have dinner and then move into the auditorium for entertainment and our Honor Flight movie.

The Junior ROTC cadets serve as guardians for the evening, but volunteers are needed as drivers and to assist with other duties. If you will be at work that day, please try to come by for our airport-style homecoming celebration to surprise the veterans as they come out of the auditorium.

Rick Asper said the students' planning and enthusiasm are an "amazing exercise in patriotism." "All this work is done by students, honoring people old enough to be their great grandfathers," Rick said.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT:** John Gullman, a Vietnam veteran Marine who served as a guardian for his father, announced that Honor Flight will be one of four veterans groups to share proceeds from the South Florida Charity Classic on Friday, April 27 at Woodlands C.C. in Tamarac. He said the tournament will be a full day to honor veterans. The tournament is looking to register more golfers and sponsors. Please tell anyone signing up to mention that they are with Honor Flight South Florida. The more golfers and sponsors we recruit the larger our share of the proceeds. See the attached flyer for more information.

**A PIECE OF HISTORY:** Usually Steve Shapiro is primarily known as the keeper of our Honor Chairs. The flights can't go if Steve's truck doesn't pull up with the 80 wheelchairs, fondly known as our Honor Chairs. But Steve had a major surprise at this meeting. Several months ago, he started wondering where the granite came from to build the World War II Me-

morial. His research led him to a quarry in Vermont. A little while later, a 110-pound package arrived -- a block of granite left over from the Atlantic tower at the memorial. Steve has had the granite cut up and packaged into small gift boxes to be given to Honor Flight veterans. He showed several pieces of granite and then had another surprise. He presented a plaque to Chairman Asper with his name engraved in a block of the granite. Once again, our hub has come up with another first for the entire network. Steve reported that a representative of the quarry told him no one had ever inquired about the granite and requested a souvenir piece. Great job, Steve!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

-- Elaine Martin said registrations are being accepted for the Painting with a Twist night on February 7. You can register with Passcode "1941" at [www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/davie/event/1181950](http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/davie/event/1181950). The cost is \$35. The studio is located at 5810 S. University Drive, #106, Davie.

-- Honor Flight will have a table Tuesday, January 16 at the Silver Dollar Boomer Expo at Seminole Casino in Coconut Creek. We need several volunteers, especially veterans, to encourage more vets to register for flights. If you can help, email [tchristensen720@aol.com](mailto:tchristensen720@aol.com).

-- You can see some of the planes that helped win World War II, including the B-17 Flying Fortress and B-24 Liberator, January 19-21 at Banyan Air Service at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. Admission is \$15. This is also a good chance to recruit some veterans for flights. Please email [tchristensen720@aol.com](mailto:tchristensen720@aol.com) if you plan to go and would like to try to meet some veterans. See attached flyer.

**WEBSITE UPDATES:** Jim Naskrent has updated the website with several new features, including an In Memoriam page to honor deceased veterans. Families, volunteers, guardians and the public can give their veteran one final salute at [www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/in\\_memoriam](http://www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/in_memoriam). .... Veterans can now submit their DD-214 discharge certificates on the website. .... If you have never registered as a volunteer, please submit the brief online form on the website. You can also register there for meeting and news updates.

**ALSO WORTH NOTING:** World War II Navy Seabee and loyal volunteer Harvey Mittleman commended Paula Jarrett for arranging the evening of honor for WWII women veterans at a recent Florida Panthers game. .... Elite Guardian and Vietnam Marine veteran Gunny Lou Slagle presented a certificate of thanks to Honor Flight for donations to Toys for Tots. He said 30,000 toys were distributed in the Keys. .... Rick Asper said that Honor Flight is very careful in its spending because "we want every dollar to go to our mission so we can serve more veterans." .... He called our volunteer corps the "life blood" of HFSE. He noted that on a recent trip to the West Coast he attended the meetings of three hubs, each with approximately 25 in attendance. We normally have 60-80.

**NEXT MEETING:** 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 24, BUT REMEMBER IT WILL BE AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION -- the Charles F. Dodge City Center, 601 SW City Center Blvd., just off Pines Blvd., in Pembroke Pines.

Thank you,  
Tom Christensen, volunteer coordinator